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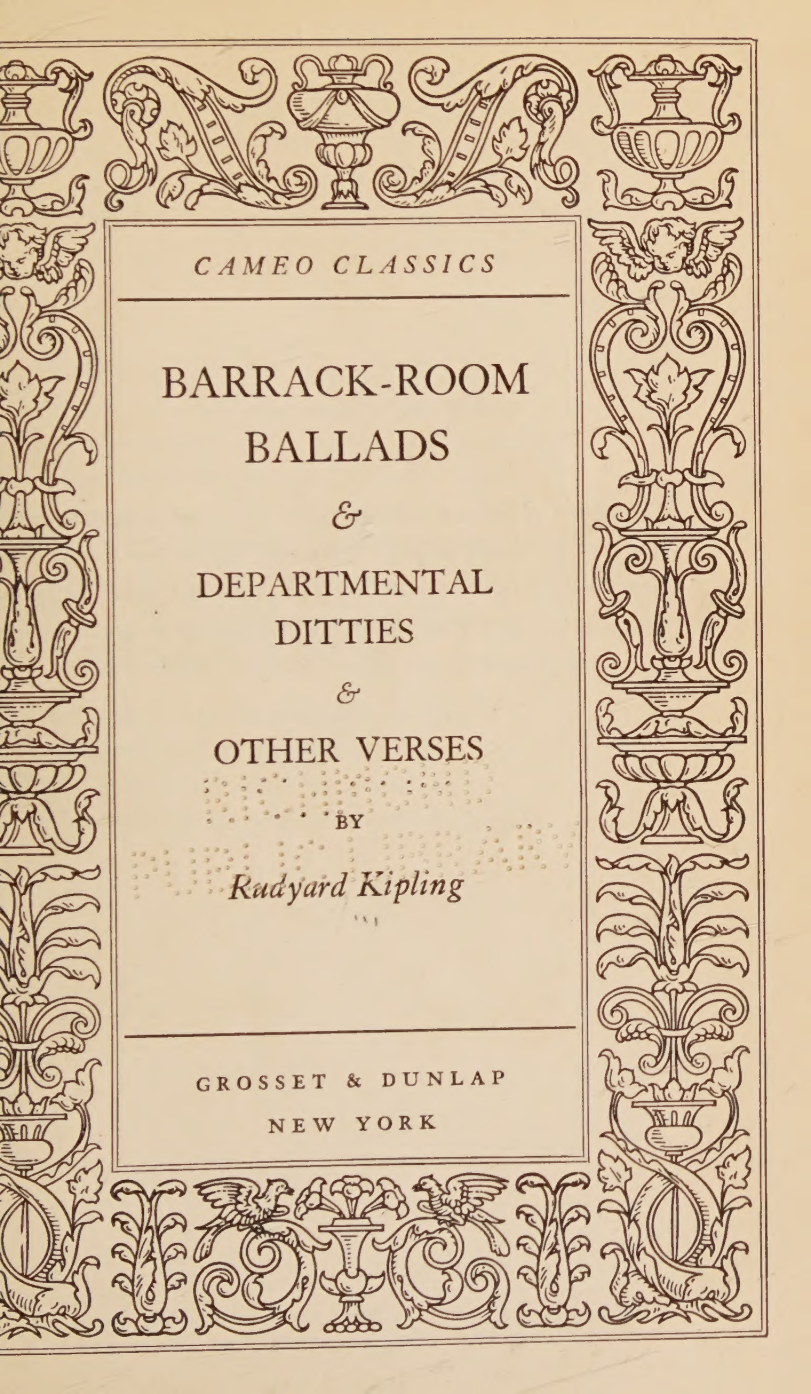
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*An' the man that spied me first
Was our good old grinnin', gruntin' Gunga Din—*



CAMEO CLASSICS

BARRACK-ROOM
BALLADS

&

DEPARTMENTAL
DITTIES

&

OTHER VERSES

BY

Rudyard Kipling

GROSSET & DUNLAP
NEW YORK

3 1143 00191 4176
821.8 Kipling
Kipling, Rudyard,
1865-1936.
Barrack-room ballads &
departmental ditties &
other verses

The cameo of Johann Gutenberg on the cover is from a medal produced by Anton Scharff, of Vienna, for the late Robert Hoe, from the head of the famous portrait statue of Gutenberg by the American sculptor, Ralph Goddard. Permission to use the medal was granted by the owner, William Edwin Rudge.

UNION
YARBU

*I HAVE eaten your bread and salt,
I have drunk your water and wine,
The deaths ye died I have watched beside,
And the lives that ye led were mine.*

*Was there aught that I did not share
In vigil or toil or ease,—
One joy or woe that I did not know,
Dear hearts across the seas?*

*I have written the tale of our life
For a sheltered people's mirth,
In jesting guise—but ye are wise,
And ye know what the jest is worth.*



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BARRACK-ROOM BALLADS



SOLDIER, SOLDIER

*S*OLDIER, soldier come from the wars,
Why don't you march with my true love?"
"We're fresh from off the ship, an' 'e's maybe give
the slip,
An' you'd best go look for a new love."
New love! True love!
Best go look for a new love,

4 *BARRACK-ROOM BALLADS*

*The dead they cannot rise, an' you'd better
dry your eyes,
An' you'd best go look for a new love.*

"Soldier, soldier come from the wars,
What did you see o' my true love?"
"I see 'im serve the Queen in a suit o' rifle green,
An' you'd best go look for a new love."

"Soldier, soldier come from the wars,
Did ye see no more o' my true love?"
"I see 'im runnin' by when the shots begun to fly—
But you'd best go look for a new love."

"Soldier, soldier come from the wars,
Did aught take 'arm to my true love?"
"I couldn't see the fight, for the smoke it lay so
white—
An' you'd best go look for a new love."

"Soldier, soldier come from the wars,
I'll up an' tend to my true love!"
"'E's lying on the dead with a bullet through 'is
'ead,
An' you'd best look for a new love."

"Soldier, soldier come from the wars,
I'll lie down an' die with my true love!"
"The pit we dug'll 'ide 'im an' twenty men beside
'im—
An' you'd best go look for a new love."

THE SONS OF THE WIDOW 5

"Soldier, soldier come from the wars,
Do you bring no sign from my true love?"
"I bring a lock of 'air that 'e allus used to wear,
An' you'd best go look for a new love."

"Soldier, soldier come from the wars,
O then I know it's true I've lost my true love!"
"An' I tell you truth again—when you've lost the
feel o' pain
You'd best take me for your true love."
True love! New love!
Best take 'im for a new love,
The dead they cannot rise, an' you'd better
dry your eyes,
An' you'd best take 'im for your true love.

THE SONS OF THE WIDOW

'*A*VE you 'eard o' the Widow at Windsor
With a hairy gold crown on 'er 'ead?
She 'as ships on the foam—she 'as millions at 'ome,
An' she pays us poor beggars in red.
(Ow, poor beggars in red!)
There's 'er nick on the cavalry 'orses
There's 'er mark on the medical stores—

6 *BARRACK-ROOM BALLADS*

An' 'er troopers you'll find with a fair wind be'ind
That takes us to various wars.

(Poor beggars!—barbarious wars!)

Then 'ere's to the Widow at Windsor,

An' 'ere's to the stores an' the guns,

The men 'an the 'orses what makes up the
forces

O' Missis Victorier's sons.

(Poor beggars!—Victorier's sons!)

Walk wide o' the Widow at Windsor,

For 'alf o' creation she owns:

We 'ave bought 'er the same with the sword an' the
flame,

An' we salted it down with our bones.

(Poor beggars!—it's blue with our bones!)

Hands off o' the sons of the Widow,

Hands off o' the goods in 'er shop,

For the Kings must come down an' the Emperor
frown

When the Widow at Windsor says "Stop!"

(Poor beggars!—we're sent to say "Stop!")

Then 'ere's to the Lodge o' the Widow,

From the Pole to the Tropics it runs—

To the Lodge that we tile with the rank an'
the file,

An' open in forms with the guns.

(Poor beggars!—it's always them guns!)

We 'ave 'eard o' the Widow at Windsor
It's safest to let 'er alone:
For 'er sentries we stand by the sea an' the land
Wherever the bugles are blown.
(Poor beggars!—an' don't we get blown!)

Take 'old o' the wings o' the mornin',
An' flop round the earth till you're dead;
But you won't get away from the tune that they play
To the bloomin' old rag over'ead.
(Poor beggars!—it's 'ot over'ead!)

Then 'ere's to the sons o' the Widow,
Wherever, 'owever they roam.
'Ere's all they desire, an' if they require
A speedy return to their 'ome.
(Poor beggars!—they'll never see 'ome!)

DANNY DEEVER

WHAT are the bugles blowin' for?" said Files-on-Parade.

"To turn you out, to turn you out," the Color-Sergeant said.

"What makes you look so white, so white?" said Files-on-Parade.

"I'm dreadin' what I've got to watch," the Color-Sergeant said.

8 *BARRACK-ROOM BALLADS*

For they're hangin' Danny Deeever, you can
 'ear the Dead March play,
The regiment's in 'ollow square—they're
 hangin' him to-day;
They've taken of his buttons off an' cut his
 stripes away,
An' they're hangin' Danny Deeever in the
 mornin'.

"What makes the rear-rank breathe so 'ard!" said
Files-on-Parade.

"It's bitter cold, it's bitter cold," the Color-Sergeant
said.

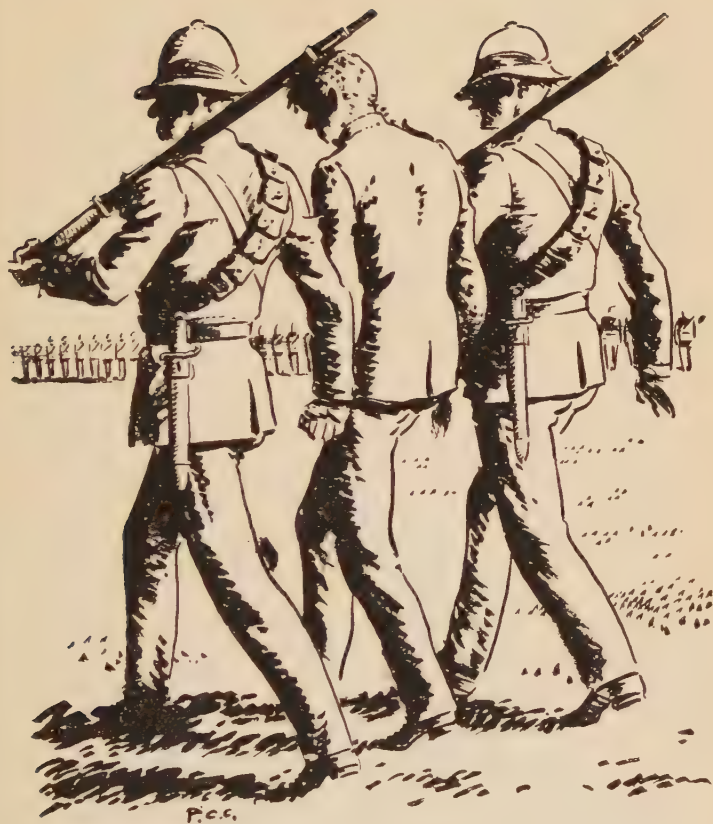
"What makes that front-rank man fall down?" says
Files-on-Parade.

"A touch of sun, a touch of sun," the Color-Sergeant
said.

They are hangin' Danny Deeever, they are
 marchin' of 'im round,
They 'ave 'alted Danny Deeever by 'is coffin on
 the ground;
An' 'e'll swing in 'arf a minute for a sneakin'
 shootin' hound—
O they're hangin' Danny Deeever in the
 mornin'!

"'Is cot was right-'and cot to mine," said Files-on-
Parade.

"'E's sleepin' out an' far to-night," the Color-Ser-
geant said.



P.C.C.

"I've drunk 'is beer a score o' times," said Files-on-Parade.

"'E's drinkin' bitter beer alone," the Color-Sergeant said.

They are hangin' Danny Deever, you must
mark 'im to 'is place,

For 'e shot a comrade sleepin'—you must look
'im in the face;

Nine 'undred of 'is county an' the regiment's
disgrace,

While they're hangin' Danny Deever in the
mornin'.

"What's that so black agin the sun?" said Files-on-Parade.

"It's Danny fightin' 'ard for life," the Color-Sergeant said.

"What's that that whimpers over'ead?" said Files-on-Parade.

"It's Danny's soul that's passin' now," the Color-Sergeant said.

For they're done with Danny Deever, you can
'ear the quickstep play,

The regiment's in column, an' they're marchin'
us away;

Ho! the young recruits are shakin', an' they'll
want their beer to-day,

After hangin' Danny Deever in the mornin'.

TROOPIN'

(*Our Army in the East.*)

TROOPIN', troopin', troopin' to the sea:
'Ere's September come again—the six-year
men are free.

O leave the dead be'ind us, for they cannot come
away

To where the ship's a-coalin' up that takes us 'ome
to-day.

We're goin' 'ome, we're goin' 'ome,
Our ship is *at* the shore,
An' you must pack your 'aversack,
For we won't come back no more.
Ho, don't you grieve for me,
My lovely Mary-Anne,
For I'll marry you yit on a fourp'ny bit
As a time-expired man.

The *Malabar*' in 'arbor with the *Jummer* at 'er tail,
An' the time-expired's waitin' of 'is orders for to
sail.

O the weary waitin' when on Khyber 'ills we lay,
But the time-expired's waitin' of 'is orders 'ome
to-day.

They'll turn us out at Portsmouth wharf in cold an'
wet an' rain,
All wearin' Injian cotton kit, but we will not com-
plain;

They'll kill us of pneumonia—for that's their little way—

But damn the chills and fever, men, we're goin' 'ome to-day!

Troopin', troopin'—winter's round again!

See the new draf's pourin' in for the old campaign;

Ho, you poor recruits, but you've got to earn your pay—

What's the last from Lunnon, lads? We're goin' there to-day.

Troopin', troopin', give another cheer—

'Ere's to English women an' a quart of English beer;

The Colonel an' the regiment an' all who've got to stay,

Gawd's mercy strike 'em gentle—Whoop! we're goin' 'ome to-day.

We're goin' 'ome, we're goin' 'ome,

Our ship is *at* the shore,

An' you must pack your 'aversack,

For we won't come back no more.

Ho, don't you grieve for me,

My lovely Mary-Anne,

For I'll marry you yit on a fourp'ny bit

As a time-expired man.

G U N G A D I N

The *bhisti*, or water-carrier, attached to regiments in India, is often one of the most devoted of the Queen's servants. He is also appreciated by the men.

You may talk o' gin an' beer
When you're quartered safe out 'ere,
An' you're sent to penny-fights an' Aldershot it;
But if it comes to slaughter
You will do your work on water,
An' you'll lick the bloomin' boots of 'im that's got it.
Now in Injia's sunny clime,
Where I used to spend my time
A-servin' of 'Er Majesty the Queen,
Of all them black-faced crew
The finest man I knew
Was our regimental *bhisti*, Gunga Din.
He was "Din! Din! Din!
You limping lump o' brick-dust, Gunga Din!
Hi! *slippy hitherao!*
Water, get it! *Panee lao!*¹
You squidgy-nosed old idol, Gunga Din!"

The uniform 'e wore
Was nothin' much before,
An' rather less than 'arf o' that be'ind,
For a twisty piece o' rag
An' a goatskin water-bag
Was all the field-equipment 'e could find.

¹ Bring water swiftly.

When the sweatin' troop-train lay
In a sidin' through the day,
Where the 'eat would make your bloomin' eyebrows
crawl,
We shouted "Harry By!" ¹
Till our throats were bricky-dry,
Then we wopped 'im 'cause 'e couldn't serve us all.
It was "Din! Din! Din!
You 'eathen, where the mischief 'ave you been?
You put some *juldee* in it,
Or I'll *marrow* ² you this minute
If you don't fill up my helmet, Gunga Din!"

'E would dot an' carry one
Till the longest day was done,
An' 'e didn't seem to know the use o' fear,
If we charged or broke or cut,
You could bet your bloomin' nut,
'E'd be waitin' fifty paces right flank rear.
With 'is *mussick* on 'is back.
'E would skip with our attack,
An' watch us till the bugles made "Retire."
An' for all 'is dirty 'ide
'E was white, clear white, inside
When 'e went to tend the wounded under fire!
It was "Din! Din! Din!"
With the bullets kickin' dust-spots on the green.

¹ Mr. Atkins's equivalent for "O Brother!"

² Hit you

When the cartridges ran out,
 You could 'ear the front-files shout:
 "Hi! ammunition-mules an' Gunga Din!"

I sha'n't forgit the night
 When I dropped be'ind the fight
 With a bullet where my belt-plate should a' been
 I was chokin' mad with thirst,
 An' the man that spied me first
 Was our good old grinnin', gruntin' Gunga Din
 'E lifted up my 'ead,
 An' 'e plugged me where I bled,
 An' 'e guv me 'arf-a-pint o' water—green:
 It was crawlin' and it stunk,
 But of all the drinks I've drunk,
 I'm gratefulest to one from Gunga Din.

It was "Din! Din! Din!

'Ere's a beggar with a bullet through 'is spleen;
 'E's chawin' up the ground an' 'e's kickin' all
 around:

For Gawd's sake git the water, Gunga Din!"

'E carried me away
 To where a *dooli* lay,
 An' a bullet come an' drilled the beggar clean.
 'E put me safe inside,
 An' just before 'e died:

"I 'ope you liked your drink," sez Gunga Din.
 So I'll meet 'im later on
 In the place where 'e is gone—
 Where it's always double drill and no canteen;

'E'll be squattin' on the coals
 Givin' drink to pore damned souls,
 An' I'll get a swig in Hell from Gunga Din!
 Din! Din! Din!
 You Lazarushian-leather Gunga Din!
 Tho' I've belted you an' flayed you,
 By the livin' Gawd that made you,
 You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din!

MANDALAY



By the old Moulmein Pagoda, lookin' eastward
 to the sea,
 There's a Burma girl a-settin', an' I know she thinks
 o' me;
 For the wind is in the palm-trees, an' the temple-
 bells they say:
 "Come you back, you British soldier; come you back
 to Mandalay!"

Come you back to Mandalay,
 Where the old Flotilla lay:
 Can't you 'ear their paddles chunkin' from
 Rangoon to Mandalay?
 Oh the road to Mandalay,
 Where the flyin'-fishes play,
 An' the dawn comes up like thunder outer
 China 'crost the Bay!

'Er petticut was yaller an' 'er little cap was green,
 An' 'er name was Supi-yaw-let—jes' the same as
 Theebaw's Queen,
 An' I seed her fust a-smokin' of a whackin' white
 cheroot,
 An' a-wastin' Christian kisses on an 'eathen idol's
 foot:
 Bloomin' idol made o' mud—
 What they called the Great Gawd Budd—
 Plucky lot she cared for idols when I kissed 'er
 where she stud!
 On the road to Mandalay—

When the mist was on the rice-fields an' the sun was
 droppin' slow,
 She'd git 'er little banjo an' she'd sing "*Kulla-lo-lo!*"
 With 'er arm upon my shoulder an' her cheek agin
 my cheek
 We useter watch the steamers an' the *hathis* pilin'
 teak.

Elephants a-pilin' teak
In the sludgy, sjudgy creek,
Where the silence 'ung that 'eavy you was 'arf
afraid to speak!
On the road to Mandalay—

But that's all shove be'ind me—long ago an' fur
away,
An' there ain't no 'busses runnin' from the Benk to
Mandalay;
An' I'm learnin' 'ere in London what the ten-year
sodger tells:
“If you've 'eard the East a-callin', why, you won't
'eed nothin' else.”
No! you won't 'eed nothin' else
But them spicy garlic smells
An' the sunshine an' the palm-trees an' the
tinkly temple bells!
On the road to Mandalay—

I am sick o' wastin' leather on these gutty pavin'-
stones,
An' the blasted Henglish drizzle wakes the fever in
my bones;
Tho' I walks with fifty 'ousemaids outer Chelsea to
the Strand,
An' they talks a lot o' lovin', but wot do they under-
stand?
Beefy face an' grubby 'and—
Law! wot *do* they understand?

I've a neater, sweeter maiden in a cleaner,
greener land!

On the road to Mandalay—

Ship me somewheres east of Suez where the best is
like the worst,

Where there aren't no Ten Commandments, an' a
man can raise a thirst;

For the temple-bells are callin', an' it's there that I
would be—

By the old Moulmein Pagoda, lookin' lazy at the
sea—

On the road to Mandalay,

Where the old Flotilla lay,

With our sick beneath the awnings when we
went to Mandalay!

Oh, the road to Mandalay,

Where the flyin'-fishes play,

An' the dawn comes up like thunder outer
China 'crost the Bay!

“TOMMY”



I WENT into a public-house to get a pint o' beer,
The publican 'e up an' sez, "We serve no red-
coats here."

The girls be'ind the bar they laughed an' giggled
fit to die,

I outs into the street again, an' to myself sez I:

O it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an'
"Tommy go away;"

But it's "Thank you, Mister Atkins," when
the band begins to play,

The band begins to play, my boys, the band
begins to play,

O it's "Thank you, Mister Atkins," when the
band begins to play.

I went into a theater as sober as could be,

They give a drunk civilian room, but 'adn't none
for me;

They sent me to the gallery or round the music-'alls,
But when it comes to fightin', Lord! they'll shove me
in the stalls.

For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an'
"Tommy wait outside;"

But it's "Special train for Atkins," when the
trooper's on the tide,

The troopship's on the tide, my boys, etc.

O makin' mock o' uniforms that guard you while
you sleep

Is cheaper than them uniforms, an' they're starvation
cheap;

An' hustlin' drunken sodgers when they're goin'
large a bit

Is five times better business than paradin' in full
kit.

Then it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an'
"Tommy, 'ow's yer soul?"

But it's "Thin red line of 'eroes" when the
drums begin to roll,

The drums begin to roll, my boys, etc.

We aren't no thin red 'eroes, nor we aren't no
blackguards too,

But single men in barricks, most remarkable like
you;

An' if sometimes our conduct isn't all your fancy
paints,

Why, single men in barricks don't grow into plaster
saints.

While it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an'
“Tommy fall be'ind;”

But it's “Please to walk in front, sir,” when
there's trouble in the wind,

There's trouble in the wind, my boys, etc.

You talk o' better food for us, an' schools, an' fires,
an' all:

We'll wait for extry rations if you treat us rational.
Don't mess about the cook-room slops, but prove it
to our face,

The widow's uniform is not the soldier-man's disgrace.

For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an'
“Chuck him out, the brute!”

But it's “Saviour of 'is country” when the
guns begin to shoot;

An' it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an'
anything you please;

An' Tommy ain't a bloomin' fool—you bet
that Tommy sees!

THE YOUNG BRITISH SOLDIER



WHEN the 'arf-made recruity goes out to the East
'E acts like a babe an' 'e drinks like a beast,
An' 'e wonders because 'e is frequent deceased
Ere 'e's fit for to serve as a soldier.

Serve, serve, serve as a soldier,

Serve, serve, serve as a soldier,

Serve, serve, serve as a soldier,

So-oldier *hof* the Queen!

Now all you recruities what's drafted to-day,
You shut up your rag-box an' 'ark to my lay,
An' I'll sing you a soldier as far as I may:

A soldier what's fit for a soldier.

Fit, fit, fit for a soldier—

First, mind you steer clear o' the grog-sellers' huts,
For they sell you Fixed Bay'nets that rots out your
guts—

Ay, drink that 'ud eat the live steel from your
butts—

An' it's bad for the young British soldier.

Bad, bad, bad for the soldier—

When the cholera comes—as it will past a doubt—

Keep out of the wet and don't go on the shout,

For the sickness comes in as the liquor dies out,

An' it crumples the young British soldier.

Crum-, crum-, crumples the soldier—

But the worst o' your foes is the sun over'ead;

You *must* wear your 'elmet for all that is said.

If 'e finds you uncovered 'e'll knock you down dead,

An' you'll die like a fool of a soldier.

Fool, fool, fool of a soldier—

If you're cast for fatigue by a sergeant unkind,

Don't grouse like a woman nor crack on nor blind;

Be handy and civil, and then you will find

As it's beer for the young British soldier.

Beer, beer, beer for the soldier—

Now, if you must marry, take care she is old—

A troop-sergeant's widow's the nicest I'm told—

For beauty won't help if your vittles is cold,

An' love ain't enough for a soldier,

'Nough, 'nough, 'nough for a soldier—

If the wife should go wrong with a comrade, be loath
To shoot when you catch 'em—you'll swing, on my
oath!—

Make 'im take 'er and keep 'er; that's hell for them
both,

An' you're quit o' the curse of a soldier.

Curse, curse, curse of a soldier—

When first under fire an' you're wishful to duck,
Don't look or take 'eed at the man that is struck,
Be thankful you're livin' an' trust to your luck,

An' march to your front like a soldier.

Front, front, front like a soldier.

When 'arf of your bullets fly wide in the ditch,
Don't call your Martini a cross-eyed old bitch;
She's human as you are—you treat her as sich,

An' she'll fight for the young British soldier.

Fight, fight, fight for the soldier—

When shakin' their bustles like ladies so fine
The guns o' the enemy wheel into line;
Shoot low at the limbers and don't mind the shine,

For noise never startles the soldier.

Start-, start-, startles the soldier—

If your officer's dead and the sergeants look white,
Remember it's ruin to run from a fight;
So take open order, lie down, and sit tight,

An' wait for supports like a soldier.

Wait, wait, wait like a soldier—

When you're wounded an' left on Afghanistan's
 plains,
 An' the women come out to cut up your remains,
 Just roll to your rifle an' blow out your brains,
 An' go to your Gawd like a soldier:
 Go, go, go like a soldier,
 Go, go, go like a soldier,
 Go, go, go like a soldier,
 So-oldier *hof* the Queen.

SCREW-GUNS

*S*MOKIN' my pipe on the mountings, sniffin' the
 mornin'-cool,
 I walks in my old brown gaiters along o' my old
 brown mule,
 With seventy gunners be'ind me, an' never a beggar
 forgets
 It's only the pick o' the Army that handles the dear
 little pets—Tss! Tss!

For you all love the screw-guns—the screw-
 guns they all love you.
 So when we call round with a few guns, o'
 course you will know what to do—hoo!
 hoo!

Just send in your chief an' surrender—it's
worse if you fights or you runs:

You can go where you please, you can skid
up the trees, but you don't get away from
the guns.

They send us along where the roads are, but mostly
we goes where they ain't;

We'd climb up the side of a sign-board an' trust to
the stick o' the paint;

We've chivied the Naga an' Lushai, we've give the
Afreedeeman fits,

For we fancies ourselves at two thousand, we guns
that are built in two bits—Tss! Tss!

For you all love the screw-guns—

If a man doesn't work, why, we drills 'im an' teaches
'im 'ow to be'ave;

If a beggar can't march, why, we kills 'im an' rattles
'im into 'is grave.

You've got to stand up to our business an' spring
without snatchin' or fuss.

D' you say that you sweat with the field-guns? By
God, you must lather with us—Tss! Tss!

For you all love the screw-guns—

The eagles is screamin' around us, the river's
amoanin' below,

We're clear o' the pine an' the oak-scrub, we're out
on the rocks an' the snow,

An' the wind is as thin as a whip-lash what carries
away to the plains

The rattle an' stamp o' the lead-mules—the jinklety-
jink o' the chains—Tss! Tss!

For you all love the screw-guns—

There's a wheel on the Horns o' the Mornin' an' a
wheel on the edge o' the Pit,

An' a drop into nothin' beneath us as straight as a
beggar can spit;

With the sweat runnin' out o' your shirtsleeves and
the sun off the snow in your face,

An' 'arf o' the men on the drag-ropes to hold the
old gun in 'er place—Tss! Tss!

For you all love the screw-guns—

Smokin' my pipe on the mountings, sniffin' the
mornin'-cool,

I climb in my old brown gaiters along o' my old
brown mule.

The monkey can say whot our road was—the wild-
goat 'e knows where we passed.

Stand easy, you long-eared old darlin's! Out drag-
ropes! With shrapnel! Hold fast!—Tss! Tss!

For you all love the screw-guns—the screw-
guns they all love you!

So when we take tea with a few guns, o'
course you will know what to do—hoo!
hoo!

Just send in your chief and surrender—it's
 worse if you fights or you runs:
 You may hide in the caves, they'll be only
 your graves, but you don't get away from
 the guns!

BELTS

THERE was a row in Silver Street that's near to
 Dublin Quay,
 Between an Irish regiment an' English cavalree;
 It started at Revelly an' it lasted on till dark;
 The first man dropped at Harrison's, the last for-
 ninst the Park.

For it was "Belts, belts, belts, an' that's one
 for you!"
 An' it was "Belts, belts, belts, an' that's done
 for you!"
 O buckle an' tongue
 Was the song that we sung
 From Harrison's on to the Park!

There was a row in Silver Street—the regiments
 was out,
 They called us "Delhi Rebels," an' we answered
 "Threes about!"

That drew them like a hornet's nest—we met them
good an' large,
The English at the double an' the Irish at the charge.
Then it was: Belts—

There was a row in Silver Street—an' I was in it
too;
We passed the time o' day, an' then the belts went
whirraru;
I misremember what occurred, but subsequent the
storm
A *Freeman's Journal Supplemint* was all my uni-
form.
O it was: Belts—

There was a row in Silver Street—they sent the
Polis there,
The English were too drunk to know, the Irish didn't
care;
But when they grew impertinint we simultaneous
rose,
Till half o' them was Liffey mud an' half was tat-
thered clo'es.
For it was: Belts—

There was a row in Silver Street—it might ha' raged
till now,
But some one drew his side-arm clear, an' nobody
knew how;

"Twas Hogan took the point an' dropped; we saw
the red blood run:

An' so we all was murderers that started out in
fun.

While it was: Belts—

There was a row in Silver Street—but that took off
the shine,

Wid each man whishperin' to his next: "'Twas
never work o' mine!"

We went away like beaten dogs, an' down the street
we bore him,

The poor dumb corpse that couldn't see the bhoys
were sorry for him.

When it was: Belts—

There was a row in Silver Street—it isn't over yet,
For half of us are under guard wid punishmints to
get;

'Tis all a mericle to me as in the Clink I lie;

There was a row in Silver Street—begod, I wonder
why!

But it was "Belts, belts, belts, an' that's one
for you!"

An' it was "Belts, belts, belts, an' that's done
for you!"

O buckle an' tongue

Was the song that we sung

From Harrison's down to the Park!

O O N T S !

(Northern India Transport Train.)



Wot makes the soldier's 'eart to penk, wot makes
'im to perspire?

It isn't standin' up to charge or lyin' down to fire;
But it's everlastin' waitin' on a everlastin' road
For the commissariat camel an' 'is commissariat load.

O the *oont*,¹ O the *oont*, O the commissariat
oont!

With 'is silly neck a-bobbin' like a basket full
o' snakes;

We packs 'im like a idol, an' you ought to
'ear 'im grunt,

An' when we gets 'im loaded up 'is blessed
girth-rope breaks.

¹ Camel: *oo* is pronounced like *u* in "bull," but by Mr. Atkins
to rhyme with "front."

34 *BARRACK-ROOM BALLADS*

Wot makes the rear-guard swear so 'ard when night
is drorin' in,

An' every native follower is shiverin' for 'is skin?
It ain't the chanst o' bein' rushed by Paythans frum
the 'ills,

It's the commissariat camel puttin' on 'is blessed
frills!

O the *oont*, O the *oont*, O the hairy scary
oont!

A trippin' over tent-ropes when we've got the
night alarm;

We socks 'im with a stretcher-pole an' 'eads
'im off in front,

An' when we've saved 'is bloomin' life 'e
chaws our bloomin' arm.

The 'orse 'e knows above a bit, the bullock's but a
fool,

The elephant's a gentleman, the baggage-mule's a
mule;

But the commissariat cam-u-el, when all is said an'
done,

'E's a devil an' a ostrich an' a orphan-child in one.

O the *oont*, O the *oont*, O the Gawd-forsaken
oont!

The 'umpy-lumpy 'ummin'-bird a-singin'
where 'e lies,

'E's blocked the 'ole division from the rear-
guard to the front,

An' when we gets 'im up again—the beggar
goes an' dies!

'E'll gall an' chafe an' lame an' fight; 'e smells most awful vile;

'E'll lose 'imself forever if you let 'im stray a mile;

'E's game to graze the 'ole day long an' 'owl the 'ole night through,

An' when 'e comes to greasy ground 'e splits 'isself in two.

O the *oont*, O the *oont*, O the floppin', drop-pin' *oont*!

When 'is long legs give from under an' 'is meltin' eye is dim,

The tribes is up be'ind us an' the tribes is out in front,

It ain't no jam for Tommy, but it's kites and crows for 'im.

So when the cruel march is done an' when the roads is blind,

An' when we sees the camp in front an' 'ears the shots be'ind,

O then we strips 'is saddle off, and all 'is woes is past:

'E thinks on us that used 'im so, an' gets revenge at last.

O the *oont*, O the *oont*, O the floatin', bloatin' *oont*!

The late lamented camel in the water-cut he lies:

We keeps a mile behind 'im an' we keeps a
mile in front,

But 'e gets into the drinkin' casks, and then
o' course we dies.

L O O T

*I*F you've ever stole a pheasant-egg be'ind the
keeper's back,

If you've ever snigged the washin' frum the line,

If you've ever crammed a gander in your bloomin'
'aversack,

You will understand this little song o' mine.

But the service rules are 'ard, an' frum such we are
debarred.

For the same with British morals does not suit

(*Cornet: Toot! toot!*)—

W'y, they call a man a robber if 'e stuffs 'is marchin'
clobber

With the—

(*Chorus*) Loo! loo! Lulu! lulu! Loo! loo! Loot!
loot! loot!

'Ow the loot!

Bloomin' loot!

That's the thing to make the boys git up an'
shoot!

It's the same with dogs an' men,
 If you'd make 'em come again
 Clap 'em forward with a Loo! loo! Lulu!
 Loot!

(ff) Whoopee! Tear 'im, puppy! Loo loo! Lulu!
 Loot! loot! loot!

If you've knocked a nigger edgeways when 'e's
 thrustin' for your life,

You must leave 'im very careful where 'e fell;
 An' may thank your stars an' gaiters if you didn't
 feel 'is knife

That you ain't told off to bury him as well.
 Then the sweatin' Tommies wonder as they spade
 the beggars under

Why lootin' should be entered as a crime;
 So if my song you'll 'ear, I will learn you plain an'
 clear

'Ow to pay yourself for fightin' overtime.

(Chorus.) With the loot, etc.

Now remember when you're 'acking round a gilded
 Burma god

That 'is eyes is very often precious stones;
 An' if you treat a nigger to a dose o' cleanin'-rod

'E's like to show you everything 'e owns.

When 'e won't prodooce no more, pour some water
 on the floor

Where you 'ear it answer 'ollow to the boot

(Cornet: Toot! toot!)—

38 *BARRACK-ROOM BALLADS*

When the ground begins to sink, shove your baynick
down the chink,

An' you're sure to touch the—

(*Chorus.*) Loo! loo! Lulu! Loot! loot! loot!

'Ow the loot, etc.

When from 'ouse to 'ouse you're 'untin' you must
always work in pairs—

It 'alves the gain, but safer you will find—

For a single man gits bottled on them twisty-wisty
stairs,

An' a woman comes and clob's 'im from be'ind.

When you've turned 'em inside out, an' it seems
beyond a doubt

As if there weren't enough to dust a flute

(*Cornet:* Toot! toot!) —

Before you sling your 'ook, at the 'ouse-tops take
a look,

For it's underneath the tiles they 'ide the loot.

(*Chorus.*) 'Ow the loot, etc.

You can mostly square a Sergint an' a Quartermaster
too,

If you only take the proper way to go;

I could never keep my pickin's, but I've learned you
all I knew—

An' don't you never say I told you so.

An' now I'll bid good-by, for I'm gettin' rather dry,

An' I see another tunin' up to toot (*Cornet:* Toot!
toot!) —

So 'ere's good-luck to those that wears the Widow's
clo'es,

An' the Devil send 'em all they want o' loot!

(Chorus.) Yes, the loot,
Bloomin' loot.

In the tunic an' the mess-tin an' the boot!

It's the same with dogs an' men,

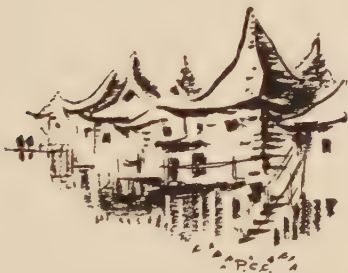
If you'd make 'em come again

Whoop 'em forward with the Loo! loo! Lulu!

Loot! loot! loot!

Heeya! Sick 'im, puppy! Loo! loo! Lulu! Loot!

loot! loot!



“FUZZY-WUZZY”

(Soudan Expeditionary Force.)



WE'VE fought with many men acrost the seas,
An' some of 'em was brave an' some was not.
The Paythan an' the Zulu an' Burmese;
But the Fuzzy was the finest o' the lot.
We never got a ha'porth's change of 'im:
'E squatted in the scrub an' 'ocked our 'orses,
'E cut our sentries up at Saukim,
An' 'e played the cat an' banjo with our forces.
So 'ere's to you, Fuzzy-Wuzzy, at your 'ome
in the Sowdan;
You're a pore benighted 'eathen but a first-
class fightin' man;

We gives you your certifikit, an' if you want
it signed

We'll come an' 'ave a romp with you when-
ever you're inclined.

We took our chanst among the Kyber 'ills,

The Boers knocked us silly at a mile,

The Burman guv us Irriwaddy chills,

An' a Zulu *impi* dished us up in style:

But all we ever got from such as they

Was pop to what the Fuzzy made us swaller;

We 'eld our bloomin' own, the papers say,

But man for man the Fuzzy knocked us 'oller.

Then 'ere's *to* you, Fuzzy-Wuzzy, an' the
missis an' the kid;

Our orders was to break you, an' of course we
went an' did.

We sloshed you with Martinis, an' it wasn't
'ardly fair;

But for all the odds agin you, Fuzzy-Wuz, you
bruk the square.

'E 'asn't got no papers of 'is own,

'E 'asn't got no medals nor rewards,

So we must certify the skill 'e's shown

In usin' of 'is long two-'anded swords;

When 'e's 'oppin' in an' out among the bush

With 'is coffin-'eaded shield an' shovel-spear,

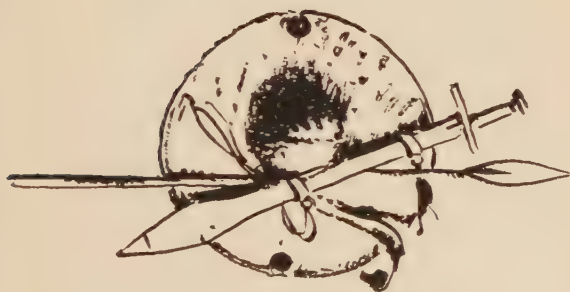
A 'appy day with Fuzzy on the rush

Will last a 'ealthy Tommy for a year.

So 'ere's *to* you, Fuzzy-Wuzzy, an' your friends
 which is no more,
 If we 'adn't lost some messmates we would
 'elp you to deplore;
 But give an' take's the gospel, an' we'll call
 the bargain fair,
 For if you 'ave lost more than us, you crum-
 pled up the square!

'E rushes at the smoke when we let drive,
 An', before we know, 'e's 'ackin' at our 'ead;
 'E's all 'ot sand an' ginger when alive,
 An' 'e's generally shammin' when 'e's dead.
 'E's a daisy, 'e's a ducky, 'e's a lamb!
 'E's a Injia-rubber idiot on the spree,
 'E's the on'y thing that doesn't care a damn
 For the Regiment o' British Infantee.
 So 'ere's *to* you, Fuzzy-Wuzzy, at your 'ome
 in the Sowdan;
 You're a pore benighted 'eathen but a first-
 class fightin' man;
 An' 'ere's *to* you, Fuzzy-Wuzzy, with your
 'ayrick 'ead of 'air—
 You big black boundin' beggar—for you bruk
 a British square.

DEPARTMENTAL DITTIES



THE MAN WHO COULD WRITE

Shun—shun the Bowl! That fatal, facile drink
Has ruined many geese who dipped their quills in't,
Bribe, murder, marry, but steer clear of Ink
Save when you write receipts for paid-up bills in't.
There may be silver in the "blue-black"—all
I know of is the iron and the gall.

*B*OANERGES BLITZEN, servant of the Queen,
 Is a dismal failure—is a Might-have-been.
 In a luckless moment he discovered men
 Rise to high position through a ready pen.

Boanerges Blitzen argued, therefore: "I
 With the selfsame weapon can attain as high."
 Only he did not possess, when he made the trial,
 Wicked wit of C—lv—n, irony of L——l.

(Men who spar with Government need, to back their
 blows,
 Something more than ordinary journalistic prose.)
 Never young Civilian's prospects were so bright,
 Till an Indian paper found that he could write:
 Never young Civilian's prospects were so dark,
 When the wretched Blitzen wrote to make his mark.

Certainly he scored it, bold and black and firm,
 In that Indian paper—made his seniors squirm,
 Quoted office scandals, wrote the tactless truth—
 Was there ever known a more misguided youth?

When the Rag he wrote for praised his plucky game,
 Boanerges Blitzen felt that this was Fame:
 When the men he wrote of shook their heads and
 swore,
 Boanerges Blitzen only wrote the more.

Posed as Young Ithuriel, resolute and grim,
 Till he found promotion didn't come to him;
 Till he found that reprimands weekly were his lot,
 And his many Districts curiously hot.

Till he found his furlough strangely hard to win,
 Boanerges Blitzen didn't care a pin:
 Then it seemed to dawn on him something wasn't
 right—

Boanerges Blitzen put it down to "spite."

Languished in a District desolate and dry
 Watched the Local Government yearly pass him by;
 Wondered where the hitch was; called it most unfair.

That was seven years ago—and he still is there.

MUNICIPAL

"Why is my District death-rate low?"

Said Binks of Hezabad.

"Wells, drains, and sewage-outfalls are

My own peculiar fad.

I learnt a lesson once. It ran

Thus," quoth that most veracious man;—

*I*T was an August evening, and, in snowy garments clad,

I paid a round of visits in the lines of Hezabad;
 When, presently, my Waler saw, and did not like
 at all,

A Commissariat elephant careering down the Mall.

46 DEPARTMENTAL DITTIES

I couldn't see the driver, and across my mind it
rushed

That that Commissariat elephant had suddenly gone
musth.

I didn't care to meet him, and I couldn't well get
down,

So I let the Waler have it, and we headed for the
town.

The buggy was a new one, and, praise Dykes, it
stood the strain,

Till the Waler jumped a bullock just above the
City Drain;

And the next that I remember was a hurricane of
squeals,

And the creature making toothpicks of my five-foot
patent wheels.

He seemed to want the owner, so I fled, distraught
with fear,

To the Main Drain sewage-outfall while he snorted
in my ear—

Reached the four-foot drain-head safely, and, in
darkness and despair,

Felt the brute's proboscis fingering my terror-stif-
fened hair.

Heard it trumpet on my shoulder—tried to crawl a
little higher—

Found the Main Drain sewage-outfall blocked, some
eight feet up, with mire;

And, for twenty reeking minutes, Sir, my very marrow froze,

While the trunk was feeling blindly for a purchase on my toes!

It missed me by a fraction, but my hair was turning gray

Before they called the drivers up and dragged the brute away.

Then I sought the City Elders, and my words were very plain.

They flushed that four-foot drain-head, and—it never choked again.

You may hold with surface-drainage, and the sun-for-garbage cure,

Till you've been a periwinkle shrinking coyly up a sewer.

I believe in well-flushed culverts

This is why the death-rate's small;

And, if you don't believe me, get *shikarred* yourself.

That's all.

A CODE OF MORALS

Lest you should think this story true,
I merely mention I
Evolved it lately. 'Tis a most
Unmitigated misstatement.

Now Jones had left his new-wed bride to keep his
house in order,
And hied away to the Hurrum Hills above the
Afghan border,
To sit on a rock with a heliograph; but ere he left
he taught
His wife the working of the Code that sets the miles
at naught.

And Love had made him very sage, as Nature made
her fair;
So Cupid and Apollo linked, *per* heliograph, the
pair.
At dawn, across the Hurrum Hills, he flashed her
counsel wise—
At e'en the dying sunset bore her husband's homilies.

He warned her 'gainst seductive youths in scarlet
clad and gold,
As much as 'gainst the blandishments paternal of
the old;

But kept his gravest warnings for (hereby the ditty hangs)

That snowy-haired Lothario, Lieutenant-General Bangs.

'Twas General Bangs, with Aide and Staff, that tittupped on the way,

When they beheld a heliograph tempestuously at play;

They thought of Border risings, and of stations sacked and burnt—

So stopped to take the message down—and this is what they learnt:—

“Dash dot dot, dot, dot dash, dot dash dot” twice.

The General swore.

“Was ever General Officer addressed as ‘dear’ before?

“‘My Love,’ i’ faith! ‘My Duck,’ Gadzooks! ‘My darling popsy-wop!’

Spirit of great Lord Wolseley, *who* is on that mountain top?”

The artless Aide-de-camp was mute; the gilded Staff were still,

As, dumb with pent-up mirth, they booked that message from the hill;

For, clear as summer’s lightning flare, the husband’s warning ran:—

“Don’t dance or ride with General Bangs—a most immoral man.”

(At dawn, across the Hurrum Hills, he flashed her
counsel wise—

But, howsoever Love be blind, the world at large
hath eyes.)

With damnatory dot and dash he heliographed his
wife

Some interesting details of the General's private life.

The artless Aide-de-camp was mute; the shining Staff
were still,

And red and ever redder grew the General's shaven
gill.

And this is what he said at last (his feelings matter
not):—

“I think we've tapped a private line. Hi! Threes
about there! Trot!”

All honor unto Bangs, for ne'er did Jones thereafter
know

By word or act official who read off that helio.;

But the tale is on the Frontier, and from Michni to
Mooltan

They know the worthy General as “that most im-
moral man.”

THE LAST DEPARTMENT

Twelve hundred million men are spread
About this Earth, and I and You
Wonder, when You and I are dead,
What will those luckless millions do?

NONE whole or clean," we cry, "or free from stain
Of favor." Wait awhile, till we attain
The Last Department, where nor fraud nor fools,
Nor grade nor greed, shall trouble us again.

Fear, Favor, or Affection—what are these
To the grim Head who claims our services?

I never knew a wife or interest yet
Delay that *pukka* step, miscalled "decease;"

When leave, long over-due, none can deny;
When idleness of all Eternity

Becomes our furlough, and the marigold
Our thriftless, bullion-minting Treasury.

Transferred to the Eternal Settlement,
Each in his strait, wood-scantled office pent,

No longer Brown reverses Smith's appeals,
Or Jones records his Minute of Dissent.

And One, long since a pillar of the Court,
As mud between the beams thereof is wrought;

And One who wrote on phosphates for the crops.
Is subject-matter of his own Report.

(These be the glorious ends whereto we pass—
 Let Him who Is, go call on Him who Was;
 And He shall see the *mallie* steals the slab
 For currie-grinder, and for goats the grass.)

A breath of wind, a Border bullet's flight
 A draught of water, or a horse's fright—
 The droning of the fat *Sheristadar*
 Ceases, the punkah stops, and falls the night

For you or Me. Do those who live decline
 The step that offers, or their work resign?
 Trust me, To-day's Most Indispensables,
 Five hundred men can take your place or mine.

WHAT HAPPENED

*H*URREE CHUNDER MOOKERJEE, pride of Bow
 Bazar,
 Owner of a native press, "Barrishter-at-Lar,"
 Waited on the Government with a claim to wear
 Sabers by the bucketful, rifles by the pair.
 Then the Indian Government winked a wicked wink,
 Said to Chunder Mookerjee: "Stick to pen and ink,
 They are safer implements; but, if you insist,
 We will let you carry arms wheresoe'er you list."

Hurree Chunder Mookerjee sought the gunsmith
and

Bought the tuber of Lancaster, Ballard, Dean, and
Bland,

Bought a shiny bowie-knife, bought a town-made
sword,

Jingled like a carriage-horse when he went abroad.

But the Indian Government, always keen to please,

Also gave permission to horrid men like these—

Yar Mahommed Yusufzai, down to kill or steal,

Chimbu Singh from Bikaneer, Tantia the Bhil.

Killar Khan the Marri chief, Jowar Singh the Sikh,

Nubbee Baksh Punjabi Jat, Abdul Huq Rafiq—

He was a Wahabi; last, little Boh Hla-oo

Took advantage of the act—took a Snider too.

They were unenlightened men, Ballard knew them
not,

They procured their swords and guns chiefly on the
spot,

And the lore of centuries, plus a hundred fights,

Made them slow to disregard one another's rights.

With a unanimity dear to patriot hearts

All those hairy gentlemen out of foreign parts

Said: "The good old days are back—let us go to
war!"

Swaggered down the Grand Trunk Road, into Bow
Bazar.

Nubbee Baksh Punjabi Jat found a hide-bound flail,
 Chimbu Singh from Bikaner oiled his Tonk jezail,
 Yar Mahommed Yusufzai spat and grinned with glee
 As he ground the butcher-knife of the Khyberree.

Jowar Singh the Sikh procured saber, quoit, and
 mace,
 Abdul Huq, Wahabi, took the dagger from its place,
 While amid the jungle-grass danced and grinned and
 jabbered
 Little Boh Hla-oo and cleared the dah-blade from
 the scabbard.

What became of Mookerjee? Soothly, who can say?
 Yar Mahommed only grins in a nasty way,
 Jowar Singh is reticent, Chimbu Singh is mute,
 But the belts of them all simply bulge with loot.

What became of Ballard's guns? Afghans black and
 grubby
 Sell them for their silver weight to the men of Pubbi;
 And the shiny bowie-knife and the town-made sword
 are
 Hanging in a Marri camp just across the Border.

What became of Mookerjee? Ask Mahommed Yar
 Prodding Siva's sacred bull down the Bow Bazar.
 Speak to placid Nubbee Baksh—question land and
 sea—
 Ask the Indian Congress men—only don't ask me!

PINK DOMINOES

"They are fools who kiss and tell"
Wisely has the poet sung.
Man may hold all sorts of posts
If he'll only hold his tongue.

JENNY and Me were engaged, you see,
On the eve of the Fancy Ball;
So a kiss or two was nothing to you
Or any one else at all.

Jenny would go in a domino—
Pretty and pink but warm;
While I attended, clad in a splendid
Austrian uniform.

Now we had arranged, through notes exchanged
Early that afternoon,
At Number Four to waltz no more,
But to sit in the dusk and spoon.

(I wish you to see that Jenny and Me
Had barely exchanged our troth;
So a kiss or two was strictly due
By, from, and between us both.)

When Three was over, an eager lover,
I fled to the gloom outside;
And a Domino came out also
Whom I took for my future bride.

56 *DEPARTMENTAL DITTIES*

That is to say, in a casual way,
I slipped my arm around her;
With a kiss or two (which is nothing to you),
And ready to kiss I found her.

She turned her head, and the name she said
Was certainly not my own;
But ere I could speak, with a smothered shriek
She fled and left me alone.

Then Jenny came, and I saw with shame
She'd doffed her domino;
And I had embraced an alien waist—
But I did not tell her so.

Next morn I knew that there were two
Dominoes pink, and one
Had cloaked the spouse of Sir Julian Vouse,
Our big political gun.

Sir J. was old, and her hair was gold,
And her eye was a blue cerulean;
And the name she said when she turned her head
Was not in the least like "Julian."

Now wasn't it nice, when want of *pice*
Forbade us twain to marry,
That old Sir J., in the kindest way,
Made me his *Secretarry*?

THE STORY OF URIAH

"Now there were two men in one city; the one rich and the other poor."

JACK BARRETT went to Quetta
Because they told him to.
He left his wife at Simla
On three-fourths his monthly screw;
Jack Barrett died at Quetta
Ere the next month's pay he drew.

Jack Barrett went to Quetta.
He didn't understand
The reason of his transfer
From the pleasant mountain-land:
The season was September,
And it killed him out of hand.

Jack Barrett went to Quetta,
And there gave up the ghost,
Attempting two men's duty
In that very healthy post;
And Mrs. Barrett mourned for him
Five lively months at most.

Jack Barrett's bones at Quetta
Enjoy profound repose;
But I shouldn't be astonished
If *now* his spirit knows
The reason of his transfer
From the Himalayan snows.

And, when the Last Great Bugle Call
 Adown the Hurnai throbs,
 When the last grim joke is entered
 In the big black Book of Job's,
 And Quetta graveyards give again
 Their victims to the air,
 I shouldn't like to be the man
 Who sent Jack Barrett there.

THE POST THAT FITTED

Though tangled and twisted the course of true love,
 This ditty explains
 No tangle's so tangled it cannot improve
 If the Lover has brains.

ERE the steamer bore him Eastward, Sleary was
 engaged to marry
 An attractive girl at Tunbridge, whom he called "my
 little Carrie."
 Sleary's pay was very modest; Sleary was the other
 way.
 Who can cook a two-plate dinner on eight paltry dibs
 a day?

Long he pondered o'er the question in his scanty
 furnished quarters—
 Then proposed to Minnie Boffkin, eldest of Judge
 Boffkin's daughters.

Certainly an impecunious Subaltern was not a catch,
But the Boffkins knew that Minnie mightn't make
another match.

So they recognized the business, and, to feed and
clothe the bride,

Got him made a Something Something somewhere
on the Bombay side.

Anyhow, the billet carried pay enough for him to
marry—

As the artless Sleary put it:—"Just the thing for me
and Carrie."

Did he, therefore, jilt Miss Boffkin—impulse of a
baser mind?

No! He started epileptic fits of an appalling kind.
(Of his *modus operandi* only this much I could
gather:—

"Pears' shaving sticks will give you little taste and
lots of lather.")

Frequently in public places his affliction used to
smite

Sleary with distressing vigor—always in the Boffkins'
sight.

Ere a week was over Minnie weepingly returned his
ring,

Told him his "unhappy weakness" stopped all
thought of marrying.

60 *DEPARTMENTAL DITTIES*

Sleary bore the information with a chastened holy
joy,—

Epileptic fits don't matter in Political employ,—

Wired three short words to Carrie—took his ticket,
packed his kit—

Bade farewell to Minnie Boffkin in one last, long,
lingering fit.

Four weeks later, Carrie Sleary read—and laughed
until she wept—

Mrs. Boffkin's warning letter on the "wretched
epilept."

Year by year, in pious patience, vengeful Mrs. Boff-
kin sits

Waiting for the Sleary babies to develop Sleary's fits.

DELILAH

We have another Viceroy now, those days are dead and
done,

Of Delilah Aberyswith and depraved Ulysses Gunne.

*D*ELILAH ABERYSWITH was a lady—not too
young—

With a perfect taste in dresses, and a badly-bitted
tongue,

With a thirst for information, and a greater thirst
for praise,

And a little house in Simla, in the Prehistoric Days.

By reason of her marriage to a gentleman in power,
Delilah was acquainted with the gossip of the hour;
And many little secrets, of a half-official kind,
Were whispered to Delilah, and she bore them all in
mind.

She patronized extensively a man, Ulysses Gunne,
Whose mode of earning money was a low and shameful
one.

He wrote for divers papers, which, as everybody
knows,
Is worse than serving in a shop or scaring off the
crows.

He praised her "queenly beauty" first; and, later on,
he hinted
At the "vastness of her intellect" with compliment
unstinted.

He went with her a-riding, and his love for her was
such
That he lent her all his horses, and—she galled them
very much.

One day, THEY brewed a secret of a fine financial
sort;
It related to Appointments, to a Man and a Report.
'Twas almost worth the keeping (only seven people
knew it),
And Gunne rose up to seek the truth and patiently
ensue it.

It was a Viceroy's Secret, but—perhaps the wine was
red—

Perhaps an Aged Councilor had lost his aged head—
Perhaps Delilah's eyes were bright—Delilah's whis-
pers sweet

The Aged Member told her what 'twere treason to
repeat.

Ulysses went a-riding, and they talked of love and
flowers;

Ulysses went a-calling, and he called for several
hours;

Ulysses went a-waltzing, and Delilah helped him
dance—

Ulysses let the waltzes go, and waited for his chance.

The summer sun was setting, and the summer air
was still,

The couple went a-walking in the shade of Summer
Hill,

The wasteful sunset faded out in turkish-green and
gold,

Ulysses pleaded softly, and . . . that bad Delilah
told!

Next morn, a startled Empire learnt the all-impor-
tant news;

Next week, the Aged Councilor was shaking in his
shoes;

Next month, I met Delilah, and she did not show
the least

Hesitation in affirming that Ulysses was a "beast."

We have another Viceroy now, those days are dead
and done,

Of Delilah Aberyswith and most mean Ulysses
Gunnel!

PUBLIC WASTE

Walpole talks of "a man and his price."

List to a ditty queer—

The sale of a Deputy-Acting-Vice-

Resident-Engineer,

Bought like a bullock, hoof and hide,

By the Little Tin Gods on the Mountain Side.

By the laws of the Family Circle 'tis written in
letters of brass

That only a Colonel from Chatham can manage the
Railways of State,

Because of the gold on his breeks, and the subjects
wherein he must pass;

Because in all matters that deal not with Railways
his knowledge is great.

Now Exeter Battleby Tring had labored from boy-
hood to eld

On the Lines of the East and the West, and eke of
the North and South;

Many Lines had he built and surveyed—important
the post which he held;
And the Lords of the Iron Horse were dumb when
he opened his mouth.

Black as the raven his garb, and his heresies jettier
still
Hinting that Railways required lifetimes of study
and knowledge;
Never clanked sword by his side—Vauban he knew
not, nor drill—
Nor was his name on the list of the men who had
passed through the “College.”

Wherefore the Little Tin Gods harried their little
tin souls,
Seeing he came not from Chatham, jingled no spurs
at his heels,
Knowing that, nevertheless, was he first on the
Government rolls
For the billet of “Railway Instructor to Little Tin
Gods on Wheels.”

Letters not seldom they wrote him, “having the
honor to state,”
It would be better for all men if he were laid on
the shelf;
Much would accrue to his bank-book, and he con-
sented to wait
Until the Little Tin Gods built him a berth for
himself.

"Special, well paid, and exempt from the Law of
the Fifty and Five,
Even to Ninety and Nine"—these were the terms
of the pact:
Thus did the Little Tin Gods (long may Their
Highnesses thrive!)
Silence his mouth with rupees, keeping their Circle
intact;
Appointing a Colonel from Chatham who managed
the Bhamo State Line,
(The which was one mile and one furlong—a guar-
anteed twenty-inch gauge).
So Exeter Battleby Tring consented his claims to
resign,
And died, on four thousand a month, in the nine-
tieth year of his age.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Old is the song that I sing—
Old as my unpaid bills—
Old as the chicken that *kitmutgars* bring
Men at dâk-bungalows—old as the Hills.

AHASUERUS JENKINS of the "Operatic Own"
Was dowered with a tenor voice of *super-Sant-*
ley tone.
His views on equitation were, perhaps, a trifle queer;
He had no seat worth mentioning, but oh! he had an
ear.

He clubbed his wretched company a dozen times a
day,

He used to quit his charger in a parabolic way,
His method of saluting was the joy of all beholders,
But Ahasuerus Jenkins had a head upon his
shoulders.

He took two months to Simla when the year was
at the spring,

And underneath the deodars eternally did sing.
He warbled like a *bulbul*, but particularly at
Cornelia Agrippina who was musical and fat.

She controlled a humble husband, who, in turn,
controlled a Dept.,

Where Cornelia Agrippina's human singing-birds
were kept

From April to October on a plump retaining fee,
Supplied, of course, *per mensem*, by the Indian
Treasury.

Cornelia used to sing with him, and Jenkins used
to play;

He praised unblushingly her notes, for he was false
as they:

So when the winds of April turned the budding
roses brown,

Cornelia told her husband:—"Tom, you mustn't
send him down."

STUDY OF AN ELEVATION 67

They haled him from his regiment which didn't
much regret him;

They found for him an office-stool, and on that stool
they set him,

To play with maps and catalogues three idle hours
a day,

And draw his plump retaining fee—which means his
double pay.

Now, ever after dinner, when the coffee-cups are
brought,

Ahasuerus wailleth o'er the grand pianoforte;

And, thanks to fair Cornelia, his fame hath waxen
great,

And Ahasuerus Jenkins is a power in the State.

*STUDY OF AN ELEVATION,
IN INDIAN INK*

This ditty is a string of lies.

But—how the deuce did Gubbins rise?

POTIPHAR GUBBINS, C. E.,
Stands at the top of the tree;

And I muse in my bed on the reasons that led

To the hoisting of Potiphar G.

Potiphar Gubbins, C. E.,

Is seven years junior to Me;

Each bridge that he makes he either buckles or
breaks,

And his work is as rough as he.

68 *DEPARTMENTAL DITTIES*

Potiphar Gubbins, C. E.,
Is coarse as a chimpanzee;
And I can't understand why you gave him your hand,
Lovely Mehitabel Lee.

Potiphar Gubbins, C. E.,
Is dear to the Powers that Be;
For They bow and They smile in an affable style
Which is seldom accorded to Me.

Potiphar Gubbins, C. E.,
Is certain as certain can be
Of a highly-paid post which is claimed by a host
Of seniors—including Me.

Careless and lazy is he,
Greatly inferior to Me.
What is the spell that you manage so well,
Commonplace Potiphar G.?

Lovely Mehitabel Lee,
Let me inquire of thee,
Should I have riz to what Potiphar is,
Hadst thou been mated to Me?

*A LEGEND OF THE
FOREIGN OFFICE*



This is the reason why Rustum Beg,
Rajah of Kolazai,
Drinketh the "simpkin" and brandy peg
Maketh the money to fly,
Vexeth a Government, tender and kind,
Also—but this is a detail—blind.

*R*USTUM BEG of Kolazai—slightly backward native state—

Lusted for a C. S. I.,—so began to sanitize.

70 DEPARTMENTAL DITTIES

Built a Jail and Hospital—nearly built a City
drain—

Till his faithful subjects all thought their ruler was
insane.

Strange departures made he then—yea, Departments
stranger still,

Half a dozen Englishmen helped the Rajah with a
will,

Talked of noble aims and high, hinted of a future
fine

For the state of Kolazai, on a strictly Western line.

Rajah Rustum held his peace; lowered octroi dues
a half;

Organized a State Police; purified the Civil Staff;

Settled cess and tax afresh in a very liberal way;

Cut temptations of the flesh—also cut the Bukhshi's
pay;

Roused his Secretariat to a fine Mahratta fury,

By a Hookum hinting at supervision of *dasturi*;

Turned the State of Kolazai very nearly upside-
down;

When the end of May was nigh, waited his achieve-
ment crown.

Then the Birthday Honors came. Sad to state and
sad to see,

Stood against the Rajah's name nothing more than
C. I. E.!

Things were lively for a week in the State of Kolazai.
Even now the people speak of that time regretfully.

How he disendowed the Jail—stopped at once the
City drain;

Turned to beauty fair and frail—got his senses back
again;

Double taxes, cesses, all; cleared away each new-built
thana;

Turned the two-lakh Hospital into a superb *Zenana*;

Heaped upon the Bukhshi Sahib wealth and honors
manifold;

Clad himself in Eastern garb—squeezed his people
as of old.

Happy, happy Kolazai! Never more will Rustum Beg
Play to catch the Viceroy's eye. He prefers the
“simpkin” peg.

GENERAL SUMMARY

WE are very slightly changed
From the semi-apes who ranged
India's prehistoric clay;
Whoso drew the longest bow,
Ran his brother down, you know,
As we run men down to-day.

"Dowb," the first of all his race,
Met the Mammoth face to face
On the lake or in the cave,
Stole the steadiest canoe,
Ate the quarry others slew,
Died—and took the finest grave.

When they scratched the reindeer-bone,
Some one made the sketch his own,
Filched it from the artist—then,
Even in those early days,
Won a simple Viceroy's praise
Through the toil of other men.

Ere they hewed the Sphinx's visage
Favoritism governed kissage,
Even as it does in this age.

Who shall doubt the secret hid
Under Cheops' pyramid
Was that the contractor did
Cheops out of several millions?
Or that Joseph's sudden rise
To Comptroller of Supplies
Was a fraud of monstrous size
On King Pharaoh's swart Civilians?

Thus, the artless songs I sing
Do not deal with anything
New or never said before.
As it was in the beginning,
Is to-day official sinning,
And shall be for evermore.

OTHER VERSES

CHRISTMAS IN INDIA

*L*IM dawn behind the tamarisks—the sky is saffron-yellow—

As the women in the village grind the corn,
And the parrots seek the river-side, each calling to
his fellow

That the Day, the staring Eastern Day is born.

Oh the white dust on the highway! Oh the
stenches in the byway!

Oh the clammy fog that hovers over earth!

And at Home they're making merry 'neath the
white and scarlet berry—

What part have India's exiles in their mirth?

Full day behind the tamarisks—the sky is blue and
staring—

As the cattle crawl afield beneath the yoke,
And they bear One o'er the field-path, who is past
all hope or caring,

To the gâht below the curling wreaths of smoke.

Call on Rama, going slowly, as ye bear a brother
lowly—

Call on Rama—he may hear, perhaps, your
voicel

With our hymn-books and our psalters we
appeal to other altars,

And to-day we bid “good Christian men
rejoice!”

High noon behind the tamarisks—the sun is hot
above us—

As at Home the Christmas Day is breaking wan.
They will drink our healths at dinner—those who
tell us how they love us,

And forget us till another year be gone!

Oh the toil that knows no breaking! Oh! the
Heimweh, ceaseless, aching!

Oh the black dividing Sea and alien Plain!
Youth was cheap—wherefore we sold it.

Gold was good—we hoped to hold it,
And to-day we know the fulness of our gain.

Gray dusk behind the tamarisks—the parrots fly
together—

As the sun is sinking slowly over Home;
And his last ray seems to mock us shackled in a
lifelong tether

That drags us back howe'er so far we roam.

Hard her service, poor her payment—she in
ancient, tattered raiment—

India, she the grim Stepmother of our kind.
If a year of life be lent her, if her temple's shrine
we enter,

The door is shut—we may not look behind.

Black night behind the tamarisks—the owls begin
their chorus—

As the conches from the temple scream and bray.
With the fruitless years behind us, and the hopeless
years before us,

Let us honor, O my brothers, Christmas Day!

Call a truce, then, to our labors—let us feast
with friends and neighbors,

And be merry as the custom of our caste;
For if “faint and forced the laughter,” and if
sadness follow after,

We are richer by one mocking Christmas past.

PAGETT, M. P.

The toad beneath the harrow knows
Exactly where each tooth-point goes.
The butterfly upon the road
Preaches contentment to that toad.

PAGETT, M. P., was a liar, and a fluent liar there-
with,—

He spoke of the heat of India as the “Asian Solar
Myth;”

Came on a four months' visit, to "study the East,"
in November,
And I got him to sign an agreement vowing to stay
till September.

March came in with the *köil*. Pagett was cool and
gay,
Called me a "bloated Brahmin," talked of my
"princely pay."
March went out with the roses. "Where is your
heat?" said he.
"Coming," said I to Pagett. "Skittles!" said Pagett,
M. P.

April began with the punkah, coolies, and prickly-
heat,—
Pagett was dear to mosquitoes, sandflies found him
a treat.
He grew speckled and lumpy—hammered, I grieve
to say,
Aryan brothers who fanned him, in an illiberal way.

May set in with a dust-storm.—Pagett went down
with the sun.
All the delights of the season tickled him one by one.
Imprimis—ten days' "liver"—due to his drinking
beer;
Later, a dose of fever—slight, but he called it severe.

Dysent'ry touched him in June, after the *Chota Bursat*—

Lowered his portly person—made him yearn to depart.

He didn't call me a "Brahmin," or "bloated," or "overpaid,"

But seemed to think it a wonder that any one stayed.

July was a trifle unhealthy,—Pagett was ill with fear,
Called it the "Cholera Morbus," hinted that life was dear.

He babbled of "Eastern exile," and mentioned his home with tears;

But I haven't seen *my* children for close upon seven years.

We reached a hundred and twenty once in the Court at noon,

(I've mentioned Pagett was portly) Pagett went off in a swoon.

That was an end to the business; Pagett, the perjured, fled

With a practical, working knowledge of "Solar Myths" in his head.

And I laughed as I drove from the station, but the mirth died out on my lips

As I thought of the fools like Pagett who write of their "Eastern trips,"

And the sneers of the traveled idiots who duly mis-
govern the land,

And I prayed to the Lord to deliver another one into
my hand.

THE MARE'S NEST

JANE AUSTEN BEECHER STOWE DE ROUSE
Was good beyond all earthly need;
But, on the other hand, her spouse
Was very, very bad indeed.
He smoked cigars, called churches slow,
And raced—but this she did not know.

For Belial Machiavelli kept
The little fact a secret, and,
Though o'er his minor sins she wept,
Jane Austen did not understand
That Lilly—thirteen-two and bay—
Absorbed one-half her husband's pay.

She was so good, she made him worse;
(Some women are like this, I think;)
He taught her parrot how to curse,
Her Assam monkey how to drink.
He vexed her righteous soul until
She went up, and he went down hill.

Then came the crisis, strange to say,
Which turned a good wife to a better.

A telegraphic peon, one day,
Brought her—now, had it been a letter
For Belial Machiavelli, I
Know Jane would just have let it lie.

But 'twas a telegram instead,
Marked "urgent," and her duty plain
To open it. Jane Austen read:—

"Your Lilly's got a cough again.
Can't understand why she is kept
At your expense." Jane Austen wept.

It was a misdirected wire.

Her husband was at Shaitanpore.
She spread her anger, hot as fire,
Through six thin foreign sheets or more,
Sent off that letter, wrote another
To her solicitor—and mother.

Then Belial Machiavelli saw
Her error and, I trust, his own,
Wired to the minion of the Law,
And traveled wifeward—not alone.
For Lilly—thirteen-two and bay—
Came in a horse-box all the way.

There was a scene—a weep or two—
With many kisses. Austen Jane
Rode Lilly all the season through,
And never opened wires again.
She races now with Belial. This
Is very sad, but so it is.

POSSIBILITIES

AY, lay him 'neath the Simla pine—
A fortnight fully to be missed,
Behold, we lose our fourth at whist,
A chair is vacant where we dine.

His place forgets him; other men
Have bought his ponies, guns, and traps.
His fortune is the Great Perhaps
And that cool rest-house down the glen,

Whence he shall hear, as spirits may,
Our mundane revel on the height,
Shall watch each flashing 'rickshaw-light
Sweep on to dinner, dance, and play.

Benmore shall woo him to the ball
With lighted rooms and braying band,
And he shall hear and understand
"*Dream Faces*" better than us all.

For, think you, as the vapors flee
Across Samjaolie after rain,
His soul may climb the hill again
To each old field of victory.

Unseen, who women held so dear,
The strong man's yearning to his kind

Shall shake at most the window-blind,
Or dull awhile the card-room's cheer.

In his own place of power unknown
His Light o' Love another's flame,
His dearest pony galloped lame,
And he an alien and alone.

Yet may he meet with many a friend—
Shrewd shadows, lingering long unseen
Among us when "*God save the Queen*"
Shows even "extras" have an end.

And, when we leave the heated room,
And, when at four the lights expire,
The crew shall gather round the fire
And mock our laughter in the gloom.

Talk as we talked, and they ere death—
First wanly, dance in ghostly wise,
With ghosts of tunes for melodies,
And vanish at the morning's breath.

THE SONG OF THE WOMEN

(Lady Dufferin's fund for Medical aid to the Women of India.)



How shall she know the worship we would do
her?

The walls are high, and she is very far.
How shall the women's message reach her
Above the tumult of the packed bazaar?
Free wind of March, against the lattice blowing,
Bear thou our thanks, lest she depart unknow-
ing.

Go forth across the fields we may not roam in,
Go forth beyond the trees that rim the city,
To whatsoe'er fair place she hath her home in,
Who dowered us with wealth of love and pity.
Out of our shadow pass, and seek her singing
"I have no gifts but Love alone for bringing."

THE SONG OF THE WOMEN 83

Say that we be a feeble folk who greet her,
But old in grief, and very wise in tears;
Say that we, being desolate, entreat her
That she forget us not in after years;
For we have seen the light, and it were grievous
To dim that dawning if our lady leave us.

By life that ebbd with none to stanch the failing,
By Love's sad harvest garnered in the spring,
When Love in ignorance wept unavailing
O'er young buds dead before their blossoming;
By all the gray owl watched, the pale moon
viewed,
In past grim years, declare our gratitude!

By hands uplifted to the Gods that heard not,
By gifts that found no favor in their sight,
By faces bent above the babe that stirred not,
By nameless horrors of the stifling night;
By ills foredone, by peace her toils discover,
Bid Earth be good beneath and Heaven above
her!

If she have sent her servants in our pain,
If she have fought with Death and dulled his
sword;
If she have given back our sick again,
And to the breast the weakling lips restored,
Is it a little thing that she has wrought?
Then Life and Death and Motherhood be
nought.

Go forth, O wind, our message on thy wings,
And they shall hear thee pass and bid thee speed,
In reed-roofed hut, or white-walled home of kings,
Who have been helpen by her in their need.
All spring shall give thee fragrance, and the
wheat
Shall be a tasseled floorcloth to thy feet.

Haste, for our hearts are with thee, take no rest!
Loud-voiced ambassador, from sea to sea
Proclaim the blessing, manifold, confest,
Of those in darkness by her hand set free,
Then very softly to her presence move,
And whisper: "Lady, lo, they know and love!"

DIVIDED DESTINIES

*I*T was an artless *Bandar*, and he danced upon a
pine,
And much I wondered how he lived, and where the
beast might dine,
And many, many other things, till, o'er my morning
smoke,
I slept the sleep of idleness and dreamt that *Bandar*
spoke.

He said: "O man of many clothes! Sad crawler on
the Hills!
Observe, I know not Ranken's shop, nor Ranken's
monthly bills;

I take no heed to trousers or the coats that you call
dress;

Nor am I plagued with little cards for little drinks
at Mess.

"I steal the bunnia's grain at morn, at noon and
eventide,

(For he is fat and I am spare), I roam the mountain
side,

I follow no man's carriage, and no, never in my
life

Have I flirted at Peliti's with another *Bandar's* wife.

"O man of futile fopperies—unnecessary wraps;

I own no ponies in the hills, I drive no tall-wheeled
traps;

I buy me not twelve-button gloves, 'short sixes' eke,
or rings,

Nor do I waste at Hamilton's my wealth on 'pretty
things.'

"I quarrel with my wife at home, we never fight
abroad;

But Mrs. B. has grasped the fact I am her only lord.

I never heard of fever—dumps nor debts depress my
soul;

And I pity and despise you!" Here he pouched my
breakfast-roll.

His hide was very mangy, and his face was very red,
And ever and anon he scratched with energy his
head.

His manners were not always nice, but how my spirit
cried

To be an artless *Bandar* loose upon the mountain
side!

So I answered: "Gentle *Bandar*, an inscrutable
Decree

Makes thee a gleesome fleasome Thou, and me a
wretched Me.

Go! Depart in peace, my brother, to thy home amid
the pine;

Yet forget not once a mortal wished to change his
lot with thine."

THE MASQUE OF PLENTY

ARGUMENT.—The Indian Government, being minded to discover the economic condition of their lands, sent a Committee to inquire into it; and saw that it was good.

SCENE.—*The wooded heights of Simla. The Incarnation of the Government of India in the raiment of the Angel of Plenty sings, to pianoforte accompaniment:—*

How sweet is the shepherd's sweet life!
From the dawn to the even he strays—
He shall follow his sheep all the day,
And his tongue shall be fillèd with praise.

(*Adagio dim.*) Fillèd with praise!"

(*Largendo con sp.*) Now this is the position,
Go make an inquisition
Into their real condition
As swiftly as ye may.

(*p.*) Ay, paint our swarthy billions
The richest of vermilions
Ere two well-led cotillions
Have danced themselves away.

TRUTHFUL PATROL, as able and intelligent Investigators wind down the Himalayas:—

What is the state of the Nation? What is its occupation?

Hi! get along, get along, get along—lend us the information!

(*Dim.*) Census the byle and the yabu—capture a first-class Babu,

let him to cut Gazetteers—Gazetteers . . .

(*ff.*) What is the state of the Nation etc., etc.

INTERLUDE, from Nowhere in Particular, to stringed and Oriental instruments.

Our cattle reel beneath the yoke they bear—
The earth is iron, and the skies are brass—
And faint with fervor of the flaming air
The languid hours pass.

The well is dry beneath the village tree—
The young wheat withers ere it reach a span,
And belts of blinding sand show cruelly
Where once the river ran.

Pray, brothers, pray, but to no earthly King—
Lift up your hands above the blighted grain,
Look westward—if they please, the Gods shall bring
Their mercy with the rain.

Look westward—bears the blue no brown cloud-
bank?

Nay, it is written—wherefore should we fly?
On our own field and by our cattle's flank
Lie down, lie down to die!

SEMI-CHORUS.

By the plumed heads of Kings
Waving high,
Where the tall corn springs
O'er the dead.
If they rust or rot we die,
If they ripen we are fed.
Very mighty is the power of our Kings!

Triumphal return to Simla of the Investigators, attired after the manner of Dionysius, leading a pet-tiger in wreaths of rhubarb leaves, symbolical of India under medical treatment. They sing:

We have seen, we have written—behold it, the proof
of our manifold toil!

In their hosts they assembled and told it—the tale
of the sons of the soil.

We have said of the Sickness, “Where is it?”—and
of Death, “It is far from our ken;”

We have paid a particular visit to the affluent children
of men.

We have trodden the mart and the well-curb—we
have stooped to the bield and the byre;

And the King may the forces of Hell curb, for the
People have all they desire!

Castanets and step-dance:

Oh, the *dom* and the *mag* and the *thakur* and the
thag,

And the *nat* and the *brinjaree*,

And the *bunnia* and the *ryot* are as happy and as
quiet

And as plump as they can be!

Yes, the *jain* and the *jat* in his stucco-fronted hut,

And the bounding *bazugar*,

By the favor of the King, are as fat as anything,

They are—they are—they are!

RECITATIVE, *Government of India, with white satin wings and electroplated harp:—*

How beautiful upon the mountains—in peace reclining,

Thus to be assured that our people are unanimously dining.

And though there are places not so blessed as others in natural advantages, which, after all, was only to be expected,

Proud and glad are we to congratulate you upon the work you have thus ably effected.

(*Cres.*) How be-ewtiful upon the mountains!

HIRED BAND, *brasses only, full chorus:*

God bless the Squire

And all his rich relations

Who teach us poor people

We eat our proper rations—

We eat our proper rations,

In spite of inundations,

Malarial exhalations,

And casual starvations,

We have, we have, they say we have—

We *have* our proper rations!

(*Cornet.*)

Which nobody can deny!

If he does he tells a lie—

We are all as willing as Barkis—
We all of us loves the Markiss—
We all of us stuffs our ca-ar-kis—
With food until we die! (*Da capo.*)

CHORUS OF THE CRYSTALLIZED FACTS.

Before the beginning of years
There came to the rule of the State
Men with a pair of shears,
Men with an Estimate—
Starchey with Muir for leaven,
Lytton with locks that fell,
Ripon fooling with Heaven,
And Temple riding like H—ll!
And the bigots took in hand
Cess and the falling of rain,
And the measure of sifted sand
The dealer puts in the grain—
Imports by land and sea,
To uttermost decimal worth,
And registration—free—
In the houses of death and of birth;
And fashioned with pens and paper,
And fashioned in black and white,
With Life for a flickering taper
And Death for a blazing light—
With the Armed and the Civil Power,
That his strength might endure for a span,

From Adam's Bridge to Peshawur,
The Much Administered man.

In the towns of the North and the East,
They gathered as unto rule,
They bade him starve the priest
And send his children to school.
Railways and roads they wrought,
For the needs of the soil within;
A time to squabble in court,
A time to bear and to grin.
And gave him peace in his ways,
Jails—and Police to fight,
Justice at length of days,
And Right—and Might in the Right.
His speech is of mortgaged bedding,
On his kine he borrows yet,
At his heart is his daughter's wedding,
In his eye foreknowledge of debt.
He eats and hath indigestion,
He toils and he may not stop;
His life is a long-drawn question
Between a crop and a crop.

A BALLADE OF JAKKO HILL

ONE moment bid the horses wait,
Since tiffin is not laid till three,
Below the upward path and straight
You climbed a year ago with me.
Love came upon us suddenly
And loosed—an idle hour to kill—
A headless, armless armory
That smote us both on Jakko Hill.

Ah Heaven! we would wait and wait
Through Time and to Eternity!
Ah Heaven! we could conquer Fate
With more than Godlike constancy!
I cut the date upon a tree—
Here stand the clumsy figures still:—
“10-7-85, A.D.”
Damp with the mist on Jakko Hill.

What came of high resolve and great,
And until Death fidelity?
Whose horse is waiting at your gate?
Whose *'rickshaw*-wheels ride over me?
No Saint's, I swear; and—let me see
To-night what names your program fill—
We drift asunder merrily,
As drifts the mist on Jakko Hill!

L'ENVOI.

Princess, behold our ancient state
 Has clean departed; and we see
 'Twas Idleness we took for Fate
 That bound light bonds on you and me.
 Amen! Here ends the comedy
 Where it began in all good will;
 Since Love and Leave together flee
 As driven mist on Jakko Hill!

THE PLEA OF THE SIMLA
 DANCERS

Too late, alas! the song
 To remedy the wrong;—
 The rooms are taken from us, swept and garnished for
 their fate.
 But these tear-besprinkled pages
 Shall attest to future ages
 That we cried against the crime of it—too late, alas!
 too late!

WHAT have *we* ever done to bear this grudge?"
 Was there no room save only in Benmore
 For docket, *duftar*, and for office drudge.
 That you usurp our smoothest dancing floor?
 Must babus do their work on polished teak?
 Are ball-rooms fittest for the ink you spill?
 Was there no other cheaper house to seek?
 You might have left them all at Strawberry Hill.

We never harmed you! Innocent our guise,
Dainty our shining feet, our voices low;
And we revolved to divers melodies,
And we were happy but a year ago.
To-night, the moon that watched our lightsome
wiles—

That beamed upon us through the deodars—
Is wan with gazing on official files,
And desecrating desks disgust the stars.

Nay! by the memory of tuneful nights—
Nay! by the witchery of flying feet—
Nay! by the glamour of foredone delights—
By all things merry, musical, and meet—
By wine that sparkled, and by sparkling eyes—
By wailing waltz—by reckless galops strain—
By dim verandas and by soft replies,
Give us our ravished ball-room back again!

Or—harken to the curse we lay on you!
The ghosts of waltzes shall perplex your brain,
And murmurs of past merriment pursue
Your 'wildered clerks that they indite in vain;
And, when you count your poor Provincial millions,
The only figures that your pen shall frame
Shall be the figures of dear, dear cotillions
Danced out in tumult long before you came.

Yea! "*See Saw*" shall upset your estimates,
"*Dream Faces*" shall your heavy heads bemuse,

Because your hand, unheeding, desecrates
Our temple; fit for higher, worthier use.
And all the long verandas, eloquent
With echoes of a score of Simla years,
Shall plague you with unbidden sentiment—
Babbling of kisses, laughter, love, and tears.

So shall you mazed amid old memories stand,
So shall you toil, and shall accomplish nought,
And ever in your ears a phantom Band
Shall blare away the staid official thought.
Wherefore—and ere this awful curse be spoken,
Cast out your swarthy sacrilegious train,
And give—ere dancing cease and hearts be broken—
Give us our ravished ball-room back again!

“AS THE BELL CLINKS”

As I left the Halls at Lumley, rose the vision of a
comely
Maid last season worshiped dumbly, watched with
fervor from afar;
And I wondered idly, blindly, if the maid would
greet me kindly.
That was all—the rest was settled by the clinking
tonga-bar.
Yea, my life and hers were coupled by the tonga
coupling bar.

For my misty meditation, at the second changing-
station,
Suffered sudden dislocation, fled before the tuneless
jar
Of a Wagner *obbligato*, *scherzo*, double-hand
staccato,
Played on either pony's saddle by the clacking tonga-
bar—
Played with human speech, I fancied, by the jiggling,
jolting bar.

“She was sweet,” thought I, “last season, but ’twere
surely wild unreason
Such tiny hope to freeze on as was offered by my
Star,
When she whispered, something sadly:—‘I—we feel
your going badly!’ ”
“*And you let the chance escape you?*” rapped the
rattling tonga-bar.
“*What a chance and what an idiot!*” clinked the
vicious tonga-bar.

Heart of man—oh, heart of putty! Had I gone by
Kakahutti,
On the old Hill-road and rutty, I had ’scaped that
fatal car
But his fortune each must bide by, so I watched the
milestones slide by,

To "*You call on Her to-morrow!*"—fugue with
cymbals by the bar—

"*You must call on Her to-morrow!*"—post-horn
gallop by the bar.

Yet a further stage my goal on—we were whirling
down to Solon,

With a double lurch and roll on, best foot foremost,
ganz und gar—

"She was *very* sweet," I hinted. "If a kiss had been
imprinted—?"

"*'Would ha' saved a world of trouble!*" clashed the
busy tonga-bar.

"*'Been accepted or rejected!*" banged and clanged
the tonga-bar.

Then a notion wild and daring, 'spite the income
tax's paring,

And a hasty thought of sharing—less than many
incomes are,

Made me put a question private, you can guess what
I would drive at.

"*You must work the sum to prove it,*" clanked the
careless tonga-bar.

"*Simple Rule of Two will prove it,*" lilted back the
tonga-bar.

It was under Khyraghaut I mused:—"Suppose the
maid be haughty—

(There are lovers rich—and forty)—wait some
wealthy Avatar?

Answer, monitor, untiring, 'twixt the ponies twain
perspiring!"

"*Faint heart never won fair lady,*" creaked the strain-
ing tonga-bar.

"*Can I tell you ere you ask Her?*" pounded slow the
tonga-bar.

Last, the Tara Devi turning showed the lights of
Simla burning,

Lit my little lazy yearning to a fiercer flame by far.
As below the Mall we jingled, through my very heart
it tingled—

Did the iterated order of the threshing tonga-bar—

"*Try your luck—you can't do better!*" twanged the
loosened tonga-bar.

AN OLD SONG

So long as 'neath the Kalka hills
The tonga-horn shall ring,
So long as down the Solon dip
The hard-held ponies swing,
So long as Tara Devi sees
The lights o' Simla town,
So long as Pleasure calls us up,
And duty drives us down,
If you love me as I love you,
What pair so happy as we two?

So long as Aces take the King,
Or backers take the bet,
So long as debt leads men to wed,
Or marriage leads to debt,
So long as little luncheons, Love,
And scandal hold their vogue,
While there is sport at Annandale
Or whisky at Jutogh,
*If you love me as I love you,
What knife can cut our love in two?*

So long as down the rocking floor
The raving polka spins,
So long as Kitchen Lancers spur
The maddened violins,
So long as through the whirling smoke
We hear the oft-told tale:—
“Twelve hundred in the Lotteries,”
And *Whatshername* for sale?
*If you love me as I love you,
We'll play the game and win it too.*

So long as Lust or Lucre tempt
Straight riders from the course,
So long as with each drink we pour
Black brewage of Remorse,
So long as those unloaded guns
We keep beside the bed
Blow off, by obvious accident,
The lucky owner's head,

*If you love me as I love you,
What can Life kill or Death undo?*

So long as Death 'twixt dance and dance
Chills best and bravest blood,
And drops the reckless rider down
The rotten, rain-soaked *khud*,
So long as rumors from the North
Make loving wives afraid,
So long as Burma takes the boy
And typhoid kills the maid,
*If you love me as I love you,
What knife can cut our love in two?*

By all that lights our daily life
Or works our lifelong woe,
From Boileaugunge to Simla Downs
And those grim glades below,
Where, heedless of the flying hoof
And clamor overhead,
Sleep, with the gray langur for guard,
Our very scornful Dead,
*If you love me as I love you,
All Earth is servant to us two?*

By Docket, Billetdoux, and File,
By Mountain, Cliff, and Fir,
By Fan and Sword and Office-box,
By Corset, Plume, and Spur,
By Riot, Revel, Waltz, and War,
By Wornen, Work, and Bills;

By all the life that fizzes in
 The everlasting Hills,
If you love me as I love you,
What pair so happy as we two?

CERTAIN MAXIMS OF
 HAFIZ



I.

*I*F It be pleasant to look on, stalled in the packed
 serai,
 Does not the Young Man try its temper and pace ere
 he buy?

If She be pleasant to look on, what does the Young
Man say?

“Lo! She is pleasant to look on, give Her to me to-
day!”

II.

Yea, though a Kafir die, to him is remitted Jehan-
num

If he borrowed in life from a native at sixty per cent
per annum.

III.

Blister we not for *bursati*? So when the heart is
vext,

The pain of one maiden's refusal is drowned in the
pain of the next.

IV.

The temper of chums, the love of your wife, and a
new piano's tune—

Which of the three will you trust at the end of an
Indian June?

V.

Who are the rulers of Ind—to whom shall we bow
the knee?

Make your peace with the women, and men will
make you L. G.

VI.

Does the woodpecker flit round the young *ferash*?

Does grass clothe a new-built wall?

Is she under thirty, the woman who holds a boy in
her thrall?

VII.

If She grow suddenly gracious—reflect. Is it all for
thee?

The black-buck is stalked through the bullock, and
Man through jealousy.

VIII.

Seek not for favor of women. So shall you find it
indeed.

Does not the boar break cover just when you're light-
ing a weed?

IX.

If He play, being young and unskilful, for shekels of
silver and gold,

Take His money, my son, praising Allah. The kid
was ordained to be sold.

X.

With a "weed" among men or horses verily this is
the best,

That you work him in office or dog-cart lightly—but
give him no rest.

XI.

Pleasant the snaffle of Courtship, improving the
manners and carriage;

But the colt who is wise will abstain from the terrible
thorn-bit of Marriage.

XII.

As the thriftless gold of the *babul*, so is the gold that
we spend
On a Derby Sweep, or our neighbor's wife, or the
horse that we buy from a friend.

XIII.

The ways of man with a maid be strange, yet simple
and tame
To the ways of a man with a horse, when selling or
racing that same.

XIV.

In public Her face turneth to thee, and pleasant Her
smile when ye meet.
It is ill. The cold rocks of El-Gidar smile thus on
the waves at their feet.
In public Her face is averted, with anger She nameth
thy name.
It is well. Was there ever a loser content with the
loss of the game?

XV.

If She have spoken a word, remember thy lips are
sealed,
And the Brand of the Dog is upon him by whom is
the secret revealed.
If She have written a letter, delay not an instant,
but burn it.

Tear it in pieces, O Fool, and the wind to her mate
shall return it!
If there be trouble to Herward, and a lie of the
blackest can clear,
Lie, while thy lips can move or a man is alive to
hear.

XVI.

My Son, if a maiden deny thee and scufflingly bid
thee give o'er,
Yet lip meets with lip at the lastward—get out! She
has been there before.
They are pecked on the ear and the chin and the
nose who are lacking in lore.

XVII.

If we fall in the race, though we win, the hoof-slide
is scarred on the course.
Though Allah and Earth pardon Sin, remaineth
forever Remorse.

XVIII.

“By all I am misunderstood!” if the Matron shall
say, or the Maid:—
“Alas! I do not understand,” my son, be thou nowise
afraid.
In vain in the sight of the Bird is the net of the
Fowler displayed.

XIX.

My son, if I, Hafiz, thy father, take hold of thy knees
in my pain,
Demanding thy name on stamped paper, one day or
one hour—refrain.
Are the links of thy fetters so light that thou cravest
another man's chain?

THE LOVERS' LITANY

EYES of gray—a sodden quay,
Driving rain and falling tears,
As the steamer wears to sea
In a parting storm of cheers.
Sing, for Faith and Hope are high—
None so true as you and I—
Sing the Lovers' Litany:—
"Love like ours can never die!"

Eyes of black—a throbbing keel,
Milky foam to left and right;
Whispered converse near the wheel
In the brilliant tropic night.
Cross that rules the Southern Sky!
Stars that sweep and wheel and fly,
Hear the Lovers' Litany:—
"Love like ours can never die!"

Eyes of brown—a dusty plain
Split and parched with heat of June,
Flying hoof and tightened rein,
Hearts that beat the old, old tune.

Side by side the horses fly,
Frame we now the old reply
Of the Lovers' Litany:—
"Love like ours can never die!"

Eyes of blue—the Simla Hills
Silvered with the moonlight hoar;
Pleading of the waltz that thrills,
Dies and echoes round Benmore.

"Mabel," "Officers," "Good-by,"
Glamour, wine, and witchery—
On my soul's sincerity,
"Love like ours can never die!"

Maidens, of your charity,
Pity my most luckless state.
Four times Cupid's debtor I—
Bankrupt in quadruplicate.

Yet, despite this evil case,
And a maiden showed me grace,
Four-and-forty times would I
Sing the Lovers' Litany:—
"Love like ours can never die!"

A BALLAD OF BURIAL

("Saint Praxed's ever was the Church for peace.")

IF down here I chance to die,
Solemnly I beg you take
All that is left of "I"
To the Hills for old sake's sake.
Pack me very thoroughly
In the ice that used to slake
Pegs I drank when I was dry—
This observe for old sake's sake.

To the railway station hie,
There a single ticket take
For Umballa—goods-train—I
Shall not mind delay or shake.
I shall rest contentedly
Spite of clamor coolies make;
Thus in state and dignity
Send me up for old sake's sake.

Next the sleepy Babu wake,
Book a Kalka van "for four."
Few, I think, will care to make
Journeys with me any more
As they used to do of yore.
I shall need a "special" break—
Thing I never took before—
Get me one for old sake's sake.

After that—arrangements make.
No hotel will take me in,
And a bullock's back would break
'Neath the teak and leaden skin.
Tonga ropes are frail and thin,
Or, did I a back-seat take,
In a tonga I might spin,—
Do your best for old sake's sake.

After that—your work is done.
Recollect a Padre must
Mourn the dear departed one—
Throw the ashes and the dust.
Don't go down at once. I trust
You will find excuse to "snake
Three days' casual on the bust,"
Get your fun for old sake's sake.

I could never stand the Plains.
Think of blazing June and May,
Think of those September rains
Yearly till the Judgment Day!
I should never rest in peace,
I should sweat and lie awake.
Rail me then, on my decease,
To the Hills for old sake's sake.

THE GRAVE OF THE HUNDRED HEAD



*T*HERE'S a widow in sleepy Chester
Who weeps for her only son;
There's a grave on the Pabeng River,
A grave that the Burmans shun,
And there's Subadar Prag Tewarri
Who tells how the work was done.

A Snider squibbed in the jungle,
Somebody laughed and fled,
And the men of the first Shikaris
Picked up their Subaltern dead,
With a big blue mark in his forehead
And the back blown out of his head.

Subadar Prag Tewarri,
Jemadar Pira Lal,
Took command of the party,
Twenty rifles in all,
Marched them down to the river
As the day was beginning to fall.

They buried the boy by the river,
A blanket over his face—
They wept for their dead Lieutenant,
The men of an alien race—
They made a *samádh* in his honor,
A mark for his resting-place.

For they swore by the Holy Water,
They swore by the salt they ate,
That the soul of Lieutenant Eshmitt Sahib
Should go to his God in state;
With fifty file of Burman
To open him Heaven's gate.

The men of the First Shikaris
Marched till the break of day,
Till they came to the rebel village,
The village of the Pabengmay—
A *jingal* covered the clearing,
Calthrops hampered the way.

Subadar Prag Tewarri,
Bidding them load with ball,

Halted a dozen rifles
 Under the village wall;
 Sent out a flanking-party
 With Jemadar Pira Lal.

The men of the First Shikaris
 Shouted and smote and slew,
 Turning the grinning *jingal*
 On to the howling crew.
 The Jemadar's flanking-party
 Butchered the folk who flew.

Long was the morn of slaughter,
 Long was the list of slain,
 Five score heads were taken,
 Five score heads and twain;
 And the men of the First Shikaris
 Went back to their grave again,

Each man bearing a basket
 Red as his palms that day,
 Red as the blazing village—
 The village of Pabengmay.
 And the "*drip-drip-drip*" from the baskets
 Reddened the grass by the way.

They made a pile of their trophies
 High as a tall man's chin,
 Head upon head distorted,
 Set in a sightless grin,

Anger and pain and terror
Stamped on the smoke-scorched skin.

Subadar Prag Tewarri
Put the head of the Boh
On the top of the mound of triumph,
The head of his son below,
With the sword and the peacock-banner
That the world might behold and know.

Thus the *samádh* was perfect,
Thus was the lesson plain
Of the wrath of the First Shikaris—
The price of a white man slain;
And the men of the First Shikaris
Went back into camp again.

Then a silence came to the river,
A hush fell over the shore,
And Bohs that were brave departed,
And Sniders squibbed no more;
For the Burmans said
That a *kullah's* head
Must be paid for with heads five score.

*There's a widow in sleepy Chester
Who weeps for her only son;
There's a grave on the Pabeng River,
A grave that the Burmans shun,
And there's Subadar Prag Tewarri
Who tells how the work was done.*

TO THE UNKNOWN
GODDESS

WILL you conquer my heart with your beauty;
my soul going out from afar?

Shall I fall to your hand as a victim of crafty and
cautious *shikar*?

Have I met you and passed you already, unknowing,
unthinking and blind?

Shall I meet you next session at Simla, O sweetest
and best of your kind?

Does the P. and O. bear you to me-ward, or, clad
in short frocks in the West,

Are you growing the charms that shall capture and
torture the heart in my breast?

Will you stay in the Plains till September—my
passion as warm as the day?

Will you bring me to book on the Mountains, or
where the thermantidotes play?

When the light of your eyes shall make pallid the
mean lesser lights I pursue,

And the charm of your presence shall lure me from
love of the gay “thirteen-two;”

When the peg and the pig-skin shall please not;
when I buy me Calcutta-built clothes;

When I quit the Delight of Wild Asses; forswearing
the swearing of oaths;

As a deer to the hand of the hunter when I turn
 'mid the gibes of my friends;
 When the days of my freedom are numbered, and
 the life of the bachelor ends.

As Goddess! child, spinster, or widow—as of old on
 Mars Hill when they raised
 To the God that they knew not an altar—so I, a
 young Pagan, have praised

The Goddess I know not nor worship; yet, if half
 that men tell me be true,
 You will come in the future, and therefore these
 verses are written to you.

THE RUPAIYAT OF OMAR KAL'VIN

[Allowing for the difference 'twixt prose and rhymed exaggeration, this ought to reproduce the sense of what Sir A—— told the nation some time ago, when the Government struck from our incomes two per cent.]

Now the New Year, reviving last Year's Debt,
 The Thoughtful Fisher casteth wide his Net;
 So I with begging Dish and ready Tongue
 Assail all Men for all that I can get.

Imports indeed are gone with all their Dues—
Lo! Salt a Lever that I dare not use,
Nor may I ask the Tillers in Bengal—
Surely my Kith and Kin will not refuse!

Pay—and I promise by the Dust of Spring,
Retrenchment. If my promises can bring
Comfort, Ye have Them now a thousand-fold—
By Allah! I will promise *Anything!*

Indeed, indeed, Retrenchment oft before
I swore—but did I mean it when I swore?
And then, and then, We wandered to the Hills,
And so the Little Less became Much More.

Whether at Boileaugunge or Babylon,
I know not how the wretched Thing is done,
The Items of Receipt grow surely small;
The Items of Expense mount one by one.

I cannot help it. What have I to do
With One and Five, or Four, or Three, or Two?
Let Scribes spit Blood and Sulphur as they please,
Or Statesmen call me foolish—Heed not you.

Behold, I promise—Anything You will.
Behold, I greet you with an empty Till—
Ah! Fellow-Sinners, of your Charity
Seek not the Reason of the Dearth, but fill.

For if I sinned and fell, where lies the Gain
 Of Knowledge? Would it ease you of your Pain
 To know the tangled Threads of Revenue,
 I ravel deeper in a hopeless Skein?

“Who hath not Prudence”—what was it I said,
 Of Her who paints Her Eyes and tires Her Head,
 And gibes and mocks the people in the Street,
 And fawns upon them for Her thriftless Bread?

Accursed is She of Eve's daughters—She
 Hath cast off Prudence, and Her End shall be
 Destruction . . . Brethren, of your Bounty grant
 Some portion of your daily Bread to *Me*.

THE MOON OF OTHER DAYS

*B*ENEATH the deep veranda's shade,
 When bats begin to fly,
 I sit me down and watch—alas!—
 Another evening die.

Blood-red behind the sere *ferash*
 She rises through the haze.
 Sainted Diana! can that be
 The Moon of Other Days?

Ah! shade of little Kitty Smith,
Sweet Saint of Kensington!
Say, was it ever thus at Home
The Moon of August shone,
When arm in arm we wandered long
Through Putney's evening haze,
And Hammersmith was Heaven beneath
The Moon of Other Days?

But Wandle's stream is Suttlej now,
And Putney's evening haze
The dust that half a hundred kine
Before my window raise.
Unkempt, unclean, athwart the mist
The seething city looms,
In place of Putney's golden gorse
The sickly *babul* blooms.

Glare down, old Hecate, through the dust
And bid the pie-dog yell,
Draw from the drain its typhoid-germ,
From each bazaar its smell;
Yea, suck the fever from the tank
And sap my strength therewith:
Thank Heaven, you show a smiling face
To little Kittie Smith!

LA NUIT BLANCHE

A Much-Discerning Public hold
The Singer generally sings
Of personal and private things,
And prints and sells his past for gold.

Whatever I may here disclaim,
The very clever folk I sing to
Will most indubitably cling to
Their pet delusion, just the same.

I HAD seen, as dawn was breaking
And I staggered to my rest,
Tari Devi softly shaking
From the Cart Road to the crest.
I had seen the spurs of Jakko
Heave and quiver, swell and sink.
Was it Earthquake or tobacco,
Day of Doom or Night of Drink?

In the full, fresh, fragrant morning
I observed a camel crawl,
Laws of gravitation scorning,
On the ceiling and the wall;
Then I watched a fender walking,
And I heard gray leeches sing,
And a red-hot monkey talking
Did not seem the proper thing.

Then a creature, skinned and crimson,
Ran about the floor and cried,

And they said I had the "jims" on,
And they dosed me with bromide,
And they locked me in my bedroom—
Me and one wee Blood Red Mouse—
Though I said: "To give my head room
You had best unroof the house."

But my words were all unheeded,
Though I told the grave M.D.
That the treatment really needed
Was a dip in open sea
That was lapping just below me,
Smooth as silver, white as snow,
And it took three men to throw me
When I found I could not go.

Half the night I watched the Heavens
Fizz like '81 champagne—
Fly to sixes and to sevens,
Wheel and thunder back again;
And when all was peace and order
Save one planet nailed askew,
Much I wept because my warder
Would not let me set it true.

After frenzied hours of waiting,
When the Earth and Skies were dumb,
Pealed an awful voice dictating
An interminable sum,

Changing to a tangled story—
“What she said you said I said—”
Till the Moon arose in glory,
And I found her . . . in my head;

Then a Face came, blind and weeping,
And It couldn't wipe Its eyes,
And It muttered I was keeping
Back the moonlight from the skies;
So I patted It for pity,
But It whistled shrill with wrath,
And a huge black Devil City
Poured its peoples on my path.

So I fled with steps uncertain
On a thousand-year long race,
But the bellying of the curtain
Kept me always in one place;
While the tumult rose and maddened
To the roar of Earth on fire,
Ere it ebbed and sank and saddened
To a whisper tense as wire.

In intolerable stillness
Rose one little, little star,
And it chuckled at my illness,
And it mocked me from afar;
And its brethren came and eyed me,
Called the Universe to aid,
Till I lay, with naught to hide me,
'Neath the Scorn of All Things Made.

Dun and saffron, robed and splendid,
Broke the solemn, pitying Day,
And I knew my pains were ended,
And I turned and tried to pray;
But my speech was shattered wholly,
And I wept as children weep,
Till the dawn-wind, softly, slowly,
Brought to burning eyelids sleep.

MY RIVAL

I go to concert, party, ball—
What profit is in these?
I sit alone against the wall
And strive to look at ease.
The incense that is mine by right
They burn before Her shrine;
And that's because I'm seventeen
And She is forty-nine.

I cannot check my girlish blush,
My color comes and goes;
I redden to my finger-tips,
And sometimes to my nose.
But She is white where white should be.
And red where red should shine.
The blush that flies at seventeen
Is fixed at forty-nine.

I wish *I* had Her constant cheek:
I wish that I could sing
All sorts of funny little songs,
Not quite the proper thing.
I'm very *gauche* and very shy,
Her jokes aren't in my line;
And, worst of all, I'm seventeen
While She is forty-nine.

The young men come, the young men go,
Each pink and white and neat,
She's older than their mothers, but
They grovel at Her feet.
They walk beside Her '*rickshaw*' wheels—
None ever walk by mine;
And that's because I'm seventeen
And She is forty-nine.

She rides with half a dozen men,
(She calls them "boys" and "mashers")
I trot along the Mall alone;
My prettiest frocks and sashes
Don't help to fill my program-card,
And vainly I repine
From ten to two A.M. Ah me!
Would I were forty-nine!

She calls me "darling," "pet," and "dear,"
And "sweet retiring maid."

I'm always at the back, I know,
She puts me in the shade.
She introduces me to men,
"Cast" lovers, I opine,
For sixty takes to seventeen,
Nineteen to forty-nine.

But even She must older grow
And end Her dancing days,
She can't go on forever so
At concerts, balls, and plays.
One ray of priceless hope I see
Before my footsteps shine;
Just think, that She'll be eighty-one
When I am forty-nine.

THE UNDERTAKER'S HORSE

"To-tschin-shu is condemned to death. How can he drink tea with the Executioner?"—*Japanese Proverb.*

THE eldest son bestrides him,
And the pretty daughter rides him,
And I meet him oft o' mornings on the Course;
And there wakens in my bosom
An emotion chill and gruesome
As I canter past the Undertaker's Horse.

Neither shies he nor is restive,
But a hideously suggestive
Trot, professional and placid, he affects;
And the cadence of his hoof-beats
To my mind, this grim reproof beats:—
“Mend your pace, my friend, I’m coming. Who’s
the next?”

Ah! stud-bred of ill-omen,
I have watched the strongest go—men
Of pith and might and muscle—at your heels,
Down the plantain-bordered highway,
(Heaven send it ne’er be my way!)
In a lacquered box and jetty upon wheels.

Answer, somber beast and dreary,
Where is Brown, the young, the cheery,
Smith, the pride of all his friends and half the Force?
You were at that last dread *dak*
We must cover at a walk,
Bring them back to me, O Undertaker’s Horse!

With your mane unhogged and flowing,
And your curious way of going,
And that business-like black crimping of your tail,
E’en with Beauty on your back, sir,
Pacing as a lady’s hack, Sir,
What wonder when I meet you I turn pale?

It may be you wait your time, Beast,
Till I write my last bad rhyme, Beast,
Quit the sunlight, cut the rhyming, drop the glass,
Follow after with the others,
Where some dusky heathen smothers
Us with marigolds in lieu of English grass.

Or, perchance, in years to follow,
I shall watch your plump sides hollow,
See Carnifex (gone lame) become a corse,
See old age at last o'erpower you,
And the Station Pack devour you,
I shall chuckle then, O Undertaker's Horse!

But to insult, gibe, and quest, I've
Still the hideously suggestive
Trot that hammers out the grim and warning text,
And I hear it hard behind me,
In what place soe'er I find me:—
"Sure to catch you sooner or later. Who's the next?"

BALLAD OF FISHER'S BOARDING-HOUSE



That night, when through the mooring-chains
The wide-eyed corpse rolled free,
To blunder down by Garden Reach
And rot at Kedgerree,
The tale the Hughli told the shoal
The lean shoal told to me.

'Twas Fultah Fisher's boarding-house
Where sailor-men reside,
And there were men of all the ports
From Mississip to Clyde,
And regally they spat and smoked,
And fearsomely they lied.

They lied about the purple Sea
That gave them scanty bread,
They lied about the Earth beneath,
The Heavens overhead,
For they had looked too often on
Black rum when that was red.

They told their tales of wreck and wrong,
Of shame and lust and fraud,
They backed their toughest statements with
The Brimstone of the Lord,
And crackling oaths went to and fro
Across the fist-banged board.

And there was Hans the Blue-eyed Dane,
Bull-throated, bare of arm,
Who carried on his hairy chest
The maid Ultruda's charm—
The little silver crucifix
That keeps a man from harm.

And there was Jake Without-the-Ears,
And Pamba the Malay,
And Carboy Gin the Guinea cook,
And Luz from Vigo Bay,
And Honest Jack who sold them slops
And harvested their pay.

And there was Salem Hardieker,
A lean Bostonian he—

Russ, German, English, Halfbreed, Finn,
Yank, Dane, and Portugee,
At Fultah Fisher's boarding-house
They rested from the sea.

Now Anne of Austria shared their drinks,
Collinga knew her fame,
From Tarnau in Galicia
To Juan Bazar she came,
To eat the bread of infamy
And take the wage of shame.

She held a dozen men to heel—
Rich spoil of war was hers,
In hose and gown and ring and chain,
From twenty mariners,
And, by Port Law, that week, men called
Her Salem Hardieker's.

But seamen learnt—what landsmen know—
That neither gifts nor gain
Can hold a winking Light o' Love
Or Fancy's flight restrain,
When Anne of Austria rolled her eyes
On Hans the blue-eyed Dane.

Since Life is strife, and strife means knife,
From Howrah to the Bay,
And he may die before the dawn
Who liquored out the day,

In Fultah Fisher's boarding-house
We woo while yet we may.

But cold was Hans the blue-eyed Dane,
Bull-throated, bare of arm,
And laughter shook the chest beneath
The maid Ultruda's charm—
The little silver crucifix
That keeps a man from harm.

"You speak to Salem Hardieker,
You was his girl, I know.
I ship mineselfs to-morrow, see,
Und round the Skaw we go,
South, down the Cattegat, by Hjelm,
To Besser in Saro."

When love rejected turns to hate,
All ill betide the man.
"You speak to Salem Hardieker"—
She spoke as woman can.
A scream—a sob—"He called me—names!"
And then the fray began.
An oath from Salem Hardieker,
A shriek upon the stairs,
A dance of shadows on the wall,
A knife-thrust unawares—
And Hans came down, as cattle drop,
Across the broken chairs.

.

In Anne of Austria's trembling hands
 The weary head fell low:—
 "I ship mineselfs to-morrow, straight
 For Besser in Saro:
 Und there Ultruda comes to me
 At Easter, und I go

"South, down the Cattegate—What's here?
 There—are—no—lights—to—guide!"
 The mutter ceased, the spirit passed,
 And Anne of Austria cried
 In Fultah Fisher's boarding-house
 When Hans the mighty died.

Thus slew they Hans the blue-eyed Dane,
 Bull-throated, bare of arm.
 But Anne of Austria looted first
 The maid Ultruda's charm—
 The little silver crucifix
 That keeps a man from harm.

THE FALL OF JOCK GILLESPIE

THIS fell when dinner-time was done—
 'Twixt the first an' the second rub—
 That oor man Jock cam' hame again
 To his rooms ahint the Club.

An' syne he laughed, an' syne he sang,
An' syne we thocht him fou,
An' syne he trumped his partner's trick,
An' garred his partner rue.

Then up and spake an elder mon,
That held the Spade its Ace—
“God save the lad! Whence comes the licht
That wimples on his face?”

An' Jock he sniggered, an' Jock he smiled,
An' ower the card-brim wunk:—
“I'm a' too fresh fra' the stirrup-peg,
May be that I am drunk.”

“There's whusky brewed in Galashiels,
An' L. L. L. forbye;
But never liquor lit the low
That keeks fra' oot your eye.

“There's a thrid o' hair on your dress-coat breast,
Aboon the heart a wee?”
“Oh! that is fra' the lang-haired Skye
That slobbers ower me.”

“Oh! lang-haired Sykes are lovin' beasts,
An' terrier dogs are fair,
But never yet was terrier born
Wi' ell-lang gowden hair!

“There’s a smirch o’ pouter on your breast,
Below the left lappel?”

“Oh! that is fra’ my auld cigar,
Whenas the stump-end fell.”

“Mon Jock, ye smoke the Trichi coarse,
For ye are short o’ cash,
An’ best Havanas couldna leave
Sae white an’ pure an ash.

“This nicht ye stopped a story braid,
An’ stopped it wi’ a curse—
Last nicht ye told that tale yoursel,
An’ capped it wi a worse!

“Oh! we’re no fou! Oh! we’re no fou!
But plainly we can ken
Ye’re fallin’, fallin’, fra’ the band
O’ cantie single men!”

An’ it fell when *sirris*-shaws were sere,
An’ the nichts were lang and mirk,
In braw new breeks, wi’ a gowden ring,
Oor Jockie gaed to the Kirk.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

WHERE the sober-colored cultivator smiles
On his *byles*;
Where the cholera, the cyclone, and the crow
Come and go;
Where the merchant deals in indigo and tea,
Hides and *ghi*;
Where the Babu drops inflammatory hints
In his prints;
Stands a City—Charnock chose it—packed away
Near a Bay—
By the sewage rendered fetid, by the sewer
Made impure,
By the Sunderbunds unwholesome, by the swamp
Moist and damp;
And the City and the Viceroy, as we see,
Don't agree.
Once, two hundred years ago, the trader came,
Meek and tame,
Where his timid foot first halted, there he stayed,
Till mere trade
Grew to Empire, and he sent his armies forth
South and North
Till the country from Peshawar to Ceylon
Was his own.
Thus the mid-day halt of Charnock—more's the pity!
Grew a City.

As the fungus sprouts chaotic from its bed,
So it spread—
Chance-directed, chance-erected, laid and built
On the silt—
Palace, byre, hovel—poverty and pride—
Side by side;
And, above the packed and pestilential town,
Death looked down.
But the Rulers in that City by the Sea
Turned to flee—
Fled, with each returning spring-tide from its ills
To the Hills.
From the clammy fogs of morning, from the blaze
Of the days,
From the sickness of the noontide, from the heat,
Beat retreat;
For the country from Peshawar to Ceylon
Was their own.
But the Merchant risked the perils of the Plain
For his gain.

Now the resting-place of Charnock, 'neath the palms
Asks an alms,
And the burden of its lamentation is,
Briefly, this:—
“Because, for certain months, we boil and stew.
So should you.
Cast the Viceroy and his Council, to perspire
In our fire!”

And for answer to the argument, in vain
 We explain
That an amateur Saint Lawrence cannot fry:—
 "All must fry!"
That the Merchant risks the perils of the Plain
 For his gain.
Nor can Rulers rule a house that men grow rich in,
 From its kitchen.

Let the Babu drop inflammatory hints
 In his prints;
And mature—consistent soul—his plan for stealing
 To Darjeeling:
Let the Merchant seek, who makes his silver pile,
 England's isle;
Let the City Charnock pitched on—evil day!—
 Go Her way.
Though the argosies of Asia at Her doors
 Heap their stores,
Though Her enterprise and energy secure
 Income sure,
Though "out-station orders punctually obeyed"
 Swell Her trade—
Still, for rule, administration, and the rest,
 Simla's best.

GRIFFEN'S DEBT

*J*MPRIMIS he was "broke." Thereafter left
His regiment, and, later, took to drink;
Then, having lost the balance of his friends,
"Went Fantee"—joined the people of the land,
Turned three parts Mussulman and one Hindu,
And lived among the Gauri villagers,
Who gave him shelter and a wife or twain,
And boasted that a thorough, full-blood *sahib*
Had come among them. Thus he spent his time,
Deeply indebted to the village *shroff*,
(Who never asked for payment) always drunk,
Unclean, abominable, out-at-heels;
Forgetting that he was an Englishman.

You know they dammed the Gauri with a dam,
And all the good contractors scamped their work,
And all the bad material at hand
Was used to dam the Gauri—which was cheap,
And, therefore, proper. Then the Gauri burst,
And several hundred thousand cubic tons
Of water dropped into the valley, *flop*,
And drowned some five and twenty villagers,
And did a lakh or two of detriment
To crops and cattle. When the flood went down
We found him dead, beneath an old dead horse,
Full six miles down the valley. So we said
He was a victim to the Demon Drink,

And moralized upon him for a week,
And then forgot him. Which was natural.

But, in the valley of the Gauri, men
Beneath the shadow of the big new dam
Relate a foolish legend of the flood,
Accounting for the little loss of life
(Only those five and twenty villagers)
In this wise: On the evening of the flood,
They heard the groaning of the rotten dam,
And voices of the Mountain Devils. Then
An incarnation of the local God,
Mounted upon a monster-neighing horse,
And flourishing a flail-like whip, came down,
Breathing ambrosia, to the villages,
And fell upon the simple villagers
With yells beyond the power of mortal throat,
And blows beyond the power of mortal hand,
And smote them with the flail-like whip, and drove
Them clamorous with terror up the hill,
And scattered, with the monster-neighing steed,
Their crazy cottages about their ears,
And generally cleared those villages.
Then came the water, and the local God,
Breathing ambrosia, flourishing his whip,
And mounted on his monster-neighing steed,
Went down the valley with the flying trees
And residue of homesteads, while they watched
Safe on the mountain-side these wondrous things,
And knew that they were much beloved of Heaven.

Wherefore, and when the dam was newly built,
 They raised a temple to the local God,
 And burned all manner of unsavory things
 Upon his altar, and created priests,
 And blew into a conch, and banged a bell,
 And told the story of the Gauri flood
 With circumstance and much embroidery.

So he the whiskified Objectionable,
 Unclean, abominable, out-at-heels,
 Became the tutelary Deity
 Of all the Gauri valley villages;
 And may in time become a Solar Myth.

IN SPRINGTIME

*M*y garden blazes brightly with the rose-bush
 and the peach,

And the *kōil* sings above it, in the *siris* by the well,
 From the creeper-covered trellis comes the squirrel's
 chattering speech,

And the blue-jay screams and flutters where the
 cherry *sat-bhai* dwell.

But the rose has lost its fragrance, and the *kōil's*
 note is strange;

I am sick of endless sunshine, sick of blossom-
 burdened bough.

Give me back the leafless woodlands where the winds
 of Springtime range—

Give me back one day in England, for it's Spring
in England now!
Through the pines the gusts are booming, o'er the
brown fields blowing chill,
From the furrow of the plowshare streams the
fragrance of the loam,
And the hawk nests on the cliff-side and the jack-
daw in the hill,
And my heart is back in England mid the sights
and sounds of Home.
But the garland of the sacrifice this wealth of rose
and peach is;
Ah! *köil*, little *köil*, singing on the *siris* bough,
In my ears the knell of exile your ceaseless bell-like
speech is—
Can you tell me aught of England or of Spring
in England now?

TWO MONTHS

IN JUNE.

No hope, no change! The clouds have shut us in
And through the clouds the sullen Sun strikes
down
Full on the bosom of the tortured Town.
Till Night falls heavy as remembered sin
That will not suffer sleep or thought of ease.
And, hour on hour, the dry-eyed Moon in spite

Glares through the haze and mocks with watery
light
The torment of the uncomplaining trees.

Far off, the Thunder bellows her despair
To echoing Earth, thrice parched. The lightnings
fly
In vain. No help the heaped-up clouds afford,
But wearier weight of burdened, burning air.
What truce with Dawn? Look, from the aching sky,
Day stalks, a tyrant with a flaming sword!

IN SEPTEMBER.

At dawn there was a murmur in the trees,
A ripple on the tank, and in the air
Presage of coming coolness—everywhere
A voice of prophecy upon the breeze.
Up leapt the sun and smote the dust to gold,
And strove to parch anew the heedless land,
All impotently, as a King grown old
Wars for the Empire crumbling 'neath his hand.

One after one, the lotos-petals fell,
Beneath the onslaught of the rebel year
In mutiny against a furious sky;
And far-off Winter whispered: "It is well!
Hot Summer dies. Behold, your help is near,
For when men's need is sorest, then come I."

THE OVERLAND MAIL

(Foot-Service to the Hills.)

IN the name of the Empress of India, make way,
O Lords of the Jungle, wherever you roam.

The woods are astir at the close of the day—

We exiles are waiting for letters from Home.

Let the robber retreat—let the tiger turn tail—

In the name of the Empress, the Overland Mail!

With a jingle of bells as the dusk gathers in,

He turns to the foot-path that heads up the hill—

The bags on his back and a cloth round his chin,

And, tucked in his waist-belt, the Post Office
bill:—

‘Despatched on this date, as received by the rail,

Per runner, two bags of the Overland Mail.”

Is the torrent in spate? He must ford it or swim.

Has the rain wrecked the road? He must climb by
the cliff.

Does the tempest cry “Halt”? What are tempests to
him?

The Service admits not a “but” or an “if.”

While the breath’s in his mouth, he must bear with-
out fail,

In the Name of the Empress, the Overland Mail.

From aloe to rose-oak, from rose-oak to fir,

From level to upland, from upland to crest,

From rice-field to rock-ridge, from rock-ridge to spur,
Fly the soft sandaled feet, strains and brawny
brown chest.

From rail to ravine—to the peak from the vale—
Up, up through the night goes the Overland Mail.

There's a speck on the hillside, a dot on the road—
A jingle of bells on the foot-path below—
There's a scuffle in the monkey's abode—
The world is awake, and the clouds are aglow.
For the great Sun himself must attend to the hail:—
"In the name of the Empress, the Overland Mail!"

THE GALLEY-SLAVE



Oh, gallant was our galley from her carven steering-wheel
To her figurehead of silver and her beak of hammered steel;

The leg-bar chafed the ankle, and we gasped for cooler air,

But no galley on the water with our galley could compare!

Our bulkheads bulged with cotton and our masts were stepped in gold—

We ran a mighty merchandise of niggers in the hold;
The white foam spun behind us, and the black shark swam below,

As we gripped the kicking sweep-head and we made that galley go.

It was merry in the galley, for we reveled now and then—

If they wore us down like cattle, faith, we fought and loved like men!

As we snatched her through the water, so we snatched a minute's bliss,

And the mutter of the dying never spoiled the lovers' kiss.

Our women and our children toiled beside us in the dark—

They died, we filed their fetters, and we heaved them to the shark—

We heaved them to the fishes, but so fast the galley sped,

We had only time to envy, for we could not mourn our dead.

Bear witness, once my comrades, what a hard-bit
gang were we—

The servants of the sweep-head, but the masters of
the sea!

By the hands that drove her forward as she plunged
and yawed and sheered.

Woman, Man, or God or Devil, was there anything
we feared?

Was it storm? Our fathers faced it, and a wilder
never blew;

Earth that waited for the wreckage watched the
galley struggle through.

Burning noon or choking midnight, Sickness, Sor-
row, Parting, Death?

Nay, our very babes would mock you, had they time
for idle breath.

But to-day I leave the galley, and another takes my
place;

There's my name upon the deck-beam—let it stand
a little space.

I am free—to watch my messmates beating out to
open main,

Free of all that Life can offer—save to handle sweep
again.

By the brand upon my shoulder, by the gall of cling-
ing steel,

By the welt the whips have left me, by the scars
that never heal;

By eyes grown old with staring through the sun-
wash on the brine,
I am paid in full for service—would that service still
were mine!

Yet they talk of times and seasons and of wo the
years bring forth,
Of our galley swamped and shattered in the rollers
of the North.

When the niggers break the hatches, and the decks
are gay with gore,
And a craven-hearted pilot crams her crashing on
the shore.

She will need no half-mast signal, minute-gun or
rocket-flare,

When the cry for help goes seaward, she will find
her servants there.

Battered chain-gangs of the orlop, grizzled drafts of
years gone by,

To the bench that broke their manhood, they shall
lash themselves and die.

Hale and crippled, young and aged, paid, deserted,
shipped away—

Palace, cot, and lazaretto shall make up the tale that
day,

When the skies are black above them, and the decks
ablaze beneath,

And the top-men clear the raffle with their clasp-
knives in their teeth.

It may be that Fate will give me life and leave to
row once more—

Set some strong man free for fighting as I take awhile
his oar.

But to-day I leave the galley. Shall I curse her service
then?

God be thanked—whate'er comes after, I have lived
and toiled with Men!

L' ENVOI

(To whom it may concern.)

THE smoke upon your Altar dies,
The flowers decay,

The Goddess of your sacrifice
Has flown away.

What profit then to sing or slay
The sacrifice from day to day?

"We know the Shrine is void," they said,

"The Goddess flown—
Yet wreaths are on the Altar laid—
The Altar-Stone

Is black with fumes of sacrifice,
Albeit She has fled our eyes.

"For, it may be, if still we sing
And tend the Shrine,

Some Deity on wandering wing
May there incline;
And, finding all in order meet,
Stay while we worship at Her feet."

ARITHMETIC ON THE
FRONTIER



A GREAT and glorious thing it is
To learn, for seven years or so,
The Lord knows what of that and this,
Ere reckoned fit to face the foe—

The flying bullet down the Pass,
That whistles clear: "All flesh is grass."

Three hundred pound per annum spent
On making brain and body meeter
For all the murderous intent
Comprised in "villanous saltpeter!"
And after—ask the Yusufzaies
What comes of all our 'ologies.

A scrimmage in a Border Station—
A canter down some dark defile—
Two thousand pounds of education
Drops to a ten-rupee *jezail*—
The Crammer's boast, the Squadron's pride,
Shot like a rabbit in a ride!

No proposition Euclid wrote,
No formulæ the text books know,
Will turn the bullet from your coat,
Or ward the tulwar's downward blow.
Strike hard who cares—shoot straight who can—
The odds are on the cheaper man.

One sword-knot stolen from the camp
Will pay for all the school expenses
Of any Kurrum Valley scamp
Who knows no word or moods and tenses,
But, being blessed with perfect sight,
Picks off our messmates left and right.

With home-bred hordes the hill-sides teem,
The troop-ships bring us one by one,
At vast expense of time and steam,
To slay Afridis where they run.
The "captives of our bow and spear"
Are cheap—alas! as we are dear.

THE BETROTHED

"You must choose between me and your cigar."

OPEN the old cigar-box, get me a Cuba stout,
For things are running crossways, and Maggie
and I are out.

We quarreled about Havanas—we fought o'er a
good cheroot,
And I know she is exacting, and she says I am a
brute.

Open the old cigar-box—let me consider a space;
In the soft blue veil of the vapor, musing on Maggie's
face.

Maggie is pretty to look at—Maggie's a loving lass.
But the prettiest cheeks must wrinkle, the truest of
loves must pass.

There's peace in a Laranaga, there's calm in a Henry
Clay,
But the best cigar in an hour is finished and thrown
away—

Thrown away for another as perfect and ripe and
brown—

But I could not throw away Maggie for fear o' the
talk o' the town!

Maggie, my wife at fifty—gray and dour and old—
With never another Maggie to purchase for love or
gold!

And the light of Days that have Been the dark of
the Days that Are,
And Love's torch stinking and stale, like the butt of
a dead cigar—

The butt of a dead cigar you are bound to keep in
your pocket—
With never a new one to light tho' it's charred and
black to the socket.

Open the old cigar-box—let me consider a while—
Here is a mild Manilla—there is a wifely smile.

Which is the better portion—bondage bought with
a ring,
Or a harem of dusky beauties fifty tied in a string?

Counselors cunning and silent—comforters true and
tried,
And never a one of the fifty to sneer at a rival
bride.

Thought in the early morning, solace in time of
woes,
Peace in the hush of the twilight, balm ere my eye-
lids close.

This will the fifty give me, asking nought in return,
With only a *Suttee's* passion—to do their duty and
burn.

This will the fifty give me. When they are spent
and dead,
Five times other fifties shall be my servants instead.

The furrows of far-off Java, the isles of the Spanish
Main.

When they hear my harem is empty, will send me
my brides again.

I will take no heed to their raiment, nor food for
their mouths withal,

So long as the gulls are nesting, so long as the
showers fall.

I will scent 'em with best vanilla, with tea will I
temper their hides,

And the Moor and the Mormon shall envy who
read of the tale of my brides.

For Maggie has written a letter to give me my choice
between

The wee little whimpering Love and the great god
Nick o' Teen.

And I have been servant of Love for barely a twelve-month clear,
But I have been Priest of Partagas a matter of seven year;

And the gloom of my bachelor days is flecked with the cherry light
Of stumps that I burned to Friendship and Pleasure and Work and Fight.

And I turn my eyes to the future that Maggie and I must prove,
But the only light on the marshes is the Will-o'-the-Wisp of Love.

Will it see me safe through my journey, or leave me bogged in the mire?
Since a puff of tobacco can cloud it, shall I follow the fitful fire?

Open the old cigar box—let me consider anew—
Old friends, and who is Maggie that I should abandon *you*?

A million surplus Maggies are willing to bear the yoke;
And a woman is only a woman, but a good cigar is a Smoke.

Light me another Cuba; I hold to my first-sworn vows,
If Maggie will have no rival, I'll have no Maggie for spouse!

THE CONUNDRUM OF THE WORKSHOPS

WHEN the flush of a new-born sun fell first on
Eden's green and gold,
Our father Adam sat under the Tree and scratched
with a stick in the mold;
And the first rude sketch that the world had seen
was joy to his mighty heart,
Till the Devil whispered behind the leaves: "It's
pretty, but is it art?"

Wherefore he called to his wife, and fled to fashion
his work anew—
The first of his race who cared a fig for the first,
most dread review;
And he left his lore to the use of his sons—and that
was a glorious gain
When the Devil chuckled: "Is it art?" in the ear of
the branded Cain.

They builded a tower to shiver the sky and wrench
the stars apart,
Till the Devil grunted behind the bricks: "It's strik-
ing, but is it art?"
The stone was dropped by the quarry-side, and the
idle derrick swung,
While each man talked of the aims of art, and each
in an alien tongue.

They fought and they talked in the north and the
south, they talked and they fought in the west,
Till the waters rose on the jabbering land, and the
poor Red Clay had rest—
Had rest till the dank blank-canvas dawn when the
dove was preened to start,
And the Devil bubbled below the keel: "It's human,
but is it art?"

The tale is old as the Eden Tree—as new as the
new-cut tooth—
For each man knows ere his lip-thatch grows he
is master of art and truth;
And each man hears as the twilight nears, to the
beat of his dying heart,
The Devil drum on the darkened pane: "You did
it, but was it art?"

We have learned to whittle the Eden Tree to the
shape of a surplice-peg,
We have learned to bottle our parents twain in the
yolk of an addled egg,
We know that the tail must wag the dog, as the
horse is drawn by the cart;
But the Devil whoops, as he whooped of old: "It's
clever, but is it art?"

When the flicker of London sun falls faint on the
club-room's green and gold,
The sons of Adam sit them down and scratch with
their pens in the mold—

They scratch with their pens in the mold of their
graves, and the ink and the anguish start
When the Devil mutters behind the leaves: "It's
pretty, but is it art?"

Now, if we could win to the Eden Tree where the
four great rivers flow,
And the wreath of Eve is red on the turf as she
left it long ago,
And if we could come when the sentry slept, and
softly scurry through,
By the favor of God we might know as much—as
our father Adam knew.

THE EXPLANATION

LOVE and Death once ceased their strife
At the Tavern of Man's Life.
Called for wine, and threw—alas!—
Each his quiver on the grass.
When the bout was o'er they found
Mingled arrows strewed the ground.
Hastily they gathered then
Each the loves and lives of men.
Ah, the fateful dawn deceived!
Mingled arrows each one sheaved:
Death's dread armory was stored
With the shafts he most abhorred:

Love's light quiver groaned beneath
Venom-headed darts of Death.
Thus it was they wrought our woe
At the Tavern long ago.
Tell me, do our masters know,
Loosing blindly as they fly,
Old men love while young men die?

THE GIFT OF THE SEA

THE dead child lay in the shroud,
And the widow watched beside;
And her mother slept, and the Channel swept
The gale in the teeth of the tide.

But the widow laughed at all.

"I have lost my man in the sea,
And the child is dead. Be still," she said,
"What more can you do to me?"

And the widow watched the dead,
And the candle guttered low,
And she tried to sing the Passing Song
That bids the poor soul go.

And "Mary take you now," she sang,
"That lay against my heart,"
And "Mary smooth your crib to-night,"
But she could not say "Depart."

Then came a cry from the sea,
But the sea-rime blinded the glass,
And "Heard ye nothing, mother?" she said;
" 'Tis the child that waits to pass."

And the nodding mother sighed.
" 'Tis a lambing ewe in the whin,
For why should the christened soul cry out,
That never knew of sin?"

"Oh, feet I have held in my hand,
Oh, hands at my heart to catch,
How should they know the road to go,
And how should they lift the latch?"

They laid a sheet to the door,
With the little quilt atop,
That it might not hurt from the cold or the dirt,
But the crying would not stop.

The widow lifted the latch
And strained her eyes to see,
And opened the door on the bitter shore
To let the soul go free.

There was neither glimmer nor ghost,
There was neither spirit nor spark,
And "Heard ye nothing, mother?" she said,
" 'Tis crying for me in the dark."

And the nodding mother sighed.

“ ’Tis sorrow makes ye dull;
Have ye yet to learn the cry of the tern,
Or the wail of the wind-blown gull?”

“The terns are blown inland,
The gray gull follows the plow.
'Twas never a bird, the voice I heard,
O mother, I hear it now!”

“Lie still, dear lamb, lie still;
The child is passed from harm,
'Tis the ache in your breast that broke your rest.
And the feel of an empty arm.”

She puts her mother aside,
“In Mary's name let be!
For the peace of my soul I must go,” she said,
And she went to the calling sea.

In the heel of the wind-bit pier,
Where the twisted weed was piled,
She came to the life she had missed by an hour,
For she came to a little child.

She laid it into her breast,
And back to her mother she came,
But it would not feed, and it would not heed,
Though she gave it her own child's name.

And the dead child dripped on her breast,
 And her own in the shroud lay stark;
 And, "God forgive us, mother," she said,
 "We let it die in the dark!"

EVARRA AND HIS GODS

*READ here,
 This is the story of Evarra—man—
 Maker of Gods in lands beyond the sea.*

Because the city gave him of her gold,
 Because the caravans brought turquoises,
 Because his life was sheltered by the King,
 So that no man should maim him, none should
 steal,

Or break his rest with babble in the streets
 When he was weary after toil, he made
 An image of his God in gold and pearl,
 With turquoise diadem and human eyes,
 A wonder in the sunshine, known afar
 And worshiped by the King; but, drunk with
 pride,

Because the city bowed to him for God,
 He wrote above the shrine: "*Thus Gods are made,
 And whoso makes them otherwise shall die.*"
 And all the city praised him. . . . Then he died,

*Read here the story of Evarra—man—
 Maker of Gods in lands beyond the sea.*

Because his city had no wealth to give,
Because the caravans were spoiled afar,
Because his life was threatened by the King,
So that all men despised him in the streets,
He hacked the living rock, with sweat and tears,
And reared a God against the morning-gold,
A terror in the sunshine, seen afar,
And worshiped by the King; but, drunk with
 pride,
Because the city fawned to bring him back,
He carved upon the plinth: "*Thus Gods are made,
And whoso makes them otherwise shall die.*"
And all the people praised him. . . . Then he died.

*Read here the story of Evarra—man—
Maker of Gods in lands beyond the sea.*

Because he lived among the simple folk,
Because his village was between the hills,
Because he smeared his cheeks with blood of ewes,
He cut an idol from a fallen pine,
Smeared blood upon its cheeks, and wedged a shell
Above its brows for eye, and gave it hair
Of trailing moss, and plaited straw for crown.
And all the village praised him for this craft,
And brought him butter, honey, milk, and curds.
Wherefore, because the shoutings drove him mad,
He scratched upon that log: "*Thus Gods are made,
And whoso makes them otherwise shall die.*"
And all the people praised him. . . . Then he died.

Read here the story of Evarra—man—

Maker of Gods in lands beyond the sea.

Because his God decreed one clot of blood
Should swerve a hair's-breadth from the pulse's
path,

And chafe his brain, Evarra mowed alone,
Rag-wrapped, among the cattle in the fields,
Counting his fingers, jesting with the trees,
And mocking at the mist, until his God
Drove him to labor. Out of dung and horns
Dropped in the mire he made a monstrous God,
Abhorrent, shapeless, crowned with plaintain tufts.
And when the cattle lowed at twilight-time,
He dreamed it was the clamor of lost crowds,
And howled among the beasts: "*Thus Gods are
made,*

And whoso makes them otherwise shall die."

Thereat the cattle bellowed. . . . Then he died.

Yet at the last he came to Paradise,
And found his own four Gods, and that he wrote;
And marveled, being very near to God,
What oaf on earth had made his toil God's law,
Till God said, mocking: "Mock not. These be
thine."

Then cried Evarra: "I have sinned!"—"Not so.
If thou hadst written otherwise, thy Gods
Had rested in the mountain and the mine,
And I were poorer by four wondrous Gods,

And thy more wondrous law, Evarra. Thine,
 Servant of shouting crowds and lowing kine."
 Thereat with laughing mouth, but tear-wet eyes,
 Evarra cast his Gods from Paradise.

*This is the story of Evarra—man—
 Maker of Gods in lands beyond the sea.*

THE VAMPIRE

THE VERSES: AS SUGGESTED BY THE PAINTING BY
 PHILIP BURNE-JONES.

A FOOL there was and he made his prayer
 (Even as you and I!)

To a rag and a bone and a hank of hair
 (We called her the woman who did not care),
 But the fool he called her his lady fair
 (Even as you and I!)

*Oh the years we waste and the tears we waste
 And the work of our head and hand,
 Belong to the woman who did not know
 (And now we know that she never could know)
 And did not understand.*

A fool there was and his goods he spent
 (Even as you and I!)
 Honor and faith and a sure intent
 (And it wasn't the least what the lady meant),
 But a fool must follow his natural bent
 (Even as you and I!)

*Oh the toil we lost and the spoil we lost
And the excellent things we planned,
Belong to the woman who didn't know why
(And now we know she never knew why)
And did not understand.*

The fool was stripped to his foolish hide
(Even as you and I!)
Which she might have seen when she threw him
aside—
(But it isn't on record the lady tried)
So some of him lived and the most of him died—
(Even as you and I!)

*And it isn't the shame and it isn't the blame
That stings like a white-hot brand.
It's coming to know that she never knew why
(Seeing at last she could never know why)
And never could understand.*

RECESSIONAL

*G*OD of our fathers, known of old
Lord of our far-flung battle line—
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

The tumult and the shouting dies—
The Captains and the Kings depart—
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

Far-called our navies melt away—
On dune and headland sinks the fire—
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

If, drunk with sight of power, we loose
Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe—
Such boasting as the Gentiles use,
Or lesser breeds without the Law—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

For heathen heart that puts her trust
In reeking tube and iron shard—
All valiant dust that builds on dust,
And guarding calls not Thee to guard.
For frantic boast and foolish word,
Thy Mercy on Thy People, Lord!

AMEN.





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